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Press release

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techUK calls for industry and government cooperation to unlock the full potential of Digital ID

- *New report outlines ten key recommendations needed urgently to enable the rapid creation of an effectively regulated market*
- *The UK Digital ID industry is calling for greater cooperation between public and private sectors on the development of the UK Trust Framework and in future governance*

LONDON, 9 June 2022: Technology trade association techUK has today published a new report, *Unlocking UK Digital Identity in 2022,* calling on the UK Government and industry to work closely together to deliver a properly regulated Digital Identity (ID) marketplace, strengthening business confidence that the UK has a viable digital identity ecosystem that can deliver for all UK stakeholders.

The report is published at a key juncture in the development of the UK Digital ID ecosystem, as DCMS continues to work on the UK Digital Identity & Attributes Trust Framework. However, as DCMS's consultation process enters its third year, the industry is still missing the clarity that only proper market regulation can deliver.

Digital ID can bring many benefits to the UK economy and society, from allowing individuals and businesses to confidently assert their identity online, to providing greater protection against online fraud and verifying the right to work or rent digitally. On this basis, techUK believes that the development of a thriving digital economy is firmly predicated upon the creation of a secure, flexible, and fully interoperable Digital ID ecosystem. The report states that the current regulatory gap can be addressed by a much closer cooperative engagement between government and industry to accelerate the process and deliver full regulation in 2023.

To determine what action is needed to ensure this happens, techUK proposes ten clear calls to action to enable a workable UK Digital ID market. These include:

- GDS's One Login for Government platform build should be fully opened to competition and tender process

- A permanent Public/Private Governing Body which owns, defines, promotes, and certifies against the Trust Framework should be created during the first half of 2023

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- Government should allow full interoperability between public and private sector Digital IDs

- Government proposals on the future of the UK Data Protection Act must provide more clarity to UK ISPs on areas that may impact the use of Digital ID in the UK

- DCMS and industry stakeholders should create a formalised joint working group to co-operate and accelerate delivery of the UK Trust Framework during 2023.

While the work DCMS has been carrying out for the UK Digital Identity & Attributes Trust Framework is a welcome step forward, techUK believes that without addressing these ten key recommendations the credibility of the Framework will diminish and the UK will miss out on a unique economic opportunity surrounding Digital ID.

Iain McCallum, Programme Manager for Digital ID, techUK said:

"Since the publication of techUK's last white paper on Digital ID in 2020, we have witnessed the development of the Digital ID ecosystem in the private sector with world-class solutions being delivered to UK business and citizens during the upheavals of the global pandemic. However, there are still significant barriers to overcome with the development of the UK Digital Identity & Attributes Trust Framework, and many in the industry feel that closer cooperation and engagement is required to both optimise and accelerate the Framework development process."

Joseph Spear, Chair of the techUK Digital ID Programme's Working Group, mVine said:

"Digital ID will bring many benefits to the UK's economy and society, but actionable regulation is first of all needed to reach its full potential. techUK's white paper builds on the previous two and is equally as timely and informative as industry and Government navigate the use cases of Digital ID.

"The techUK Digital Identity Working Group is keen to see the development of a collaborative Digital ID ecosystem where the public, private or third sector can reap the benefits."

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors

This is the third report techUK publishes on Digital ID. Previous reports can be found:
- techUK publishes Digital Identity White Paper (2019)

- Digital identities key component in post-COVID recovery (2020)

The full list of recommendations is:

1. DCMS should create a formalised timetable to enable the full implementation of the UK Digital ID and Attributes Trust Framework during the first half of 2023

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2. The associated legislative changes required to support the UK Trust Framework should be timetabled during the 2022/23 parliamentary session

3. GDS's One Login for Government platform build should be fully opened to competition and tender process

4. Certified ISPs should be granted access to government department-owned data attributes under the proposed 'Legal Gateway' during the first half of 2023

5. A permanent Public/Private Governing Body which owns, defines, promotes, and certifies against the Trust Framework should be created during the first half of 2023

6. Government should allow full interoperability between public and private sector Digital IDs

7. The creation of a detailed plan and timetable to create a unique, independent UK Regulator to oversee UK Digital ID ecosystem should be completed by the end of 2023

8. Government proposals on the future of the UK Data Protection Act must provide more clarity to UK ISPs on areas that may impact the use of Digital ID in the UK

9. Public engagement to build public trust and confidence in Digital ID must be prioritised by Government Communications Service and a plan put in place for 2023

10. DCMS and industry stakeholders should create a formalised joint working group to co-operate and accelerate delivery of the UK Trust Framework during 2023.

The full report can be downloaded [here](#).

[techUK's Digital Identity programme](#)

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About techUK

techUK is the technology trade association that brings together people, companies and organisations to realise the positive outcomes of what digital technology can achieve.

With over 850 members (the majority of which are SMEs) across the UK, techUK creates a network for innovation and collaboration across business, government and stakeholders to provide a better future for people, society, the economy and the planet.

By providing expertise and insight, we support members, partners and stakeholders as they prepare the UK for what comes next in a constantly changing world.