

# Central Government Programme

The Central Government Programme represents the supplier community of technology to the UK Government. We advocate for the govtech sector, evangelise tech as a solution to public sector challenges, facilitate market engagement and help make the public sector easier to operate within. We help members make the most out of the govtech opportunity, and help government become a more intelligent customer for tech, ultimately driving value for money and improved public services for citizens.

[Visit the Central Government hub on our website.](#)



# 2021 Achievements

## Departmental engagement and developing markets

Our industry engagement events help government engage with the tech supplier base and industry understand government requirements. We ran sessions ranging from high-level Chief Digital Information Officer briefings to pre-procurement engagements with various large government departments, including HMRC, DWP and the Home Office, as well as Crown Commercial Service (CCS) and arms-length bodies such as the Government Property Agency (GPA), National Savings and Investments (NS&I) and Ofsted.

The Programme had a good drumbeat of industry engagement events in 2021, including several pre-procurement briefings with HMRC's Technology Sourcing Programme.

## Developing networks

We ran our sixth annual [GovTech SME survey](#) and used the results to generate recommendations to improve SME access to the marketplace. Keeping SMEs high on the agenda, we also ran a Partnering and Networking event where SMEs demonstrated their capabilities and connected with potential partners.

The Programme also ran two successful campaign weeks, one on [Innovation in Public Services](#), and the other on [Building the Smarter State](#), which took place in the run up to our flagship Building the Smarter State Conference which connects senior central government figures with the technology industry.

## Reducing business cost and risk

The Programme worked closely with the public sector to improve how government buys technology and evangelise our members as solution providers to public sector challenges. This included techUK's response on behalf of members to the government's consultation on [Transforming Procurement Reform](#) and the [National Data Strategy](#), as well as working with members on understanding the Social Value Framework.

We want to see government get the basics right on technology procurement, which is why 2021 saw us engage with the Cabinet Office on the Digital, Data and Technology Playbook.

# 2022 Objectives

## Departmental engagement and developing markets

Early and effective pre-procurement market engagement with industry is critical to ensure government has access to innovative tech, and it is a core driver of the Central Government Programme's value.

To help government become a more intelligent client for technology and understand industry capabilities, we will continue to run market engagement sessions with Whitehall departments with a strategic focus on the Home Office, DWP, HMRC and the GPA. We will also continue to work closely with CCS to ensure tech policies and procurement frameworks are optimised for buyers and suppliers of all sizes.

This year we will be running a series of high-level briefings including a One Government Cloud Strategy briefing with the Cabinet Office and CCS, and a Technology Sourcing Programme Update with HMRC. We will also look to run more market insight events to ensure members have the right market intelligence.

## Developing networks

As well as promoting an opportunity for a structured and formalised approach to industry engagement, the Programme also helps members to deepen their understanding of government and to develop the right networks and relationships to put their best foot forward when it comes to public sector opportunities.

techUK will support the Central Digital and Data Office (CDDO) on several initiatives including an Industry Chief Technology Officer Council, to act as a counterpoint to its Government Chief Technology Officer Council and provide it with a wide range of industry views. We will also establish a best-in-class model for industry engagement with the Home Office that can be replicated across departments.

## Reduce business cost and risk

To deliver transformation, government needs to better understand the technology available and future trends of public services delivery. The Programme will continue close engagement with CCS to ensure technology frameworks are properly optimised, and to ensure members can maximise their chances of winning contracts.

We will also continue our work on procurement reform and on the National Data Strategy – specifically Mission 3 surrounding government's use of data; support the launch of the DDaT Playbook; and work with members to ensure the sector has a thorough understanding of the Social Value Framework and any other commercial policies that will inform how government buys tech.