



# UKCRC/CPHC/UKRI/BCS Workshop on Policy Engagement

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

# Why get involved in policy engagement

- ▶ Public responsibility
- ▶ Self-interest
- ▶ Community responsibility

# Public responsibility

- ▶ The world has gone digital!
- ▶ One impact of the pandemic has been a trend that was already well advanced, to weave computing technology into every day lives
- ▶ As computing becomes pervasive (and transparent) it is essential that it is developed and deployed responsibly
- ▶ Much of work is funded by the public purse – this is an opportunity for us to give back

# Self-interest

- ▶ Some engagements will have resourcing implications for Science funding
- ▶ We need to ensure that our perspective is presented to ensure that the discipline continues to be valued as well as funded
- ▶ There is still wide-spread lack of understanding of what “artificial intelligence”, “data science” and even “computer science” are and it is **our** responsibility to address that.

# Self/Department interest

- ▶ Informing yourself about planned legislation and Government consultations can give you insight into national priorities
- ▶ This can help you to argue for how your research contributes to national importance
- ▶ If your research/advice is subsequently quoted in the report of the committee and/or used as evidence on which to base future decision making it can form the basis of an impact case study

# Community responsibility

- ▶ Each discipline needs to engage with Government and policy makers – given this it is important that engagement involves a **diverse group**
- ▶ Diversity is needed to ensure that the whole community is represented because even within one disciplines there may be a number of different perspectives
- ▶ Engaging a wider group also reduces the additional work for any one individual
- ▶ Having more people involved builds resilience into the process, especially when early career researchers are also involved
- ▶ We need to take collective responsibility for how our discipline is represented

# UKCRC

- ▶ The UKCRC was formed in November 2002 and is an Expert Panel of the British Computer Society, the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing and the Institution of Engineering & Technology.
- ▶ By contributing to policy formation within these three key national bodies, UKCRC enables UK Computing Research to speak with a single voice.
- ▶ UKCRC presents its views to Government, Parliamentary Committees and other agencies through pro-active submissions and responses to consultations.
- ▶ There is an Executive Committee of 12 members and a wider membership of approximately 150.

# Policy Engagement: Response to Consultations

- ▶ Responses are submitted to all consultations where there appears to be a specific Computing perspective
- ▶ Where appropriate these are made jointly with CPHC (and sometimes BCS/Computing Academy)
- ▶ These are published on the UKCRC website, but only after the report of the consultation is made public
- ▶ Increasingly there are requests for oral evidence, or follow-up visits to Government Departments



CPHC

# What do we hope to achieve?

- ▶ The aims of today's workshop are
  - Present the reasons why it is important to engage with policy makers
  - Raise awareness of the mechanism for getting engaged
  - Give you some experience in thinking through the process of engagement and important considerations
  - Give you confidence to get involved in consultations and other forms engagement in future

# Agenda for this workshop

- ▶ **09.00 Introduction: Why it is important to get involved with this kind of work**  
Jane Hillston (UKCRC Chair) and Edmund Robinson (CPHC Chair)
- ▶ **09.30 UKRI/EPSRC**  
Links between UKRI and Policy (Rhys Perry and James Draycott)
- ▶ **10.00 The Mechanics of Consultation & how it relates to Parliamentary Committees**  
Masterclass (Chris Johnson, Queen's University Belfast)
- ▶ **10.45 Break**
- ▶ **11.00 Update on the Role of the BCS Academy**  
Alastair Irons (BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT)
- ▶ **11.30 The Landscape of Influencing**  
Sarah Main (Executive Director, Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE))
- ▶ **12.00 Closing – why it is important to get involved with this kind of work**  
Chris Hankin (Imperial College) and Anthony Finkelstein (CSA for National Security)