



## Parliamentary Internet, Communications and Technology Forum

### Programme of Events 2023

*The Secretariat has sought suggestions from PICTFOR's parliamentarian members, industry representatives and other stakeholders and used the resulting priorities to form the basis of this programme of events. Topics and timings may vary to accommodate speakers' schedules and the legislative agenda. Please note with respect to the upcoming events below that further details, including speakers and timings, will be announced at a later date, and PICTFOR plan to hold a mixture of virtual and in-person sessions, in line with parliamentary guidance and member preference.*

With pressing economic concerns dominating the agenda and a General Election looming, PICTFOR is committed to making 2023 the year of solutions. The Group's events programme is therefore closely linked to the legislative agenda and the priorities of the sector, with the intention to create short policy papers following each event with clear member-led recommendations which will be sent to the relevant Government Department and opposition spokespeople.

Furthermore, the Group plans to produce a comprehensive member and tech community-led report focusing on the links between the sector, the cost-of-living crisis, and economic growth which will look at productivity; public vs private sector knowledge sharing; government support; skills; and the required investment needed to capitalise on emerging tech opportunities. We will launch the report with a parliamentary reception, following which copies will be sent to every parliamentarian in both Houses.

#### THEMES

Throughout each of our events below, we will cover the following broad themes through discussion:

1. **The Cost of Living and Economic Growth** – How can the tech sector work with Parliamentarians to help address the cost-of-living crisis and drive economic growth?
2. **Digital Inclusion and Skills** – How can the sector use 2023 to tackle the digital divide, end digital poverty for good, and address the demand for a highly skilled digital workforce?

#### FEBRUARY

##### The UK as a Quantum Computing Leader

**How could quantum computing expand digital capabilities in the next decade and how can the UK ensure that it is world leading?**

*Members event – Roundtable*

*Date: TBC*

#### *Theme:*

- Does the Quantum Strategy go far enough in establishing the UK as a quantum leader?
- What will the impact of quantum computing be on the environment and how can this be mitigated?
- How do we solve the international supply chain issues associated with quantum?
- Is the UK workforce adequately prepared to deliver on the opportunities of quantum?
- What are the practical uses of quantum we can expect to see in the next decade?
- How can the sector work with regulators to ensure standards?
- What are the implications of quantum for end-to-end encryption?
- What barriers are there to attracting skilled talent to the UK?
- How does migration to quantum align with the migration to cloud services?



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### MARCH

#### The Future of Public Services

**How can digitisation help public services to provide cost and time-effective services for the UK?**

*Member's Event – Panel*

*Date: TBC*

*Theme:*

- How can technology revolutionise the diagnosis and treatment of common health issues?
- How do we balance the climate and cost implications of digitisation with the benefits to society?
- Do UK public institutions have the required digital skills and basic infrastructure to effectively implement digitisation?
- As services increasingly move online, how can we ensure the most vulnerable in society are not cut off from essential services?
- What are the barriers to the uptake of digital solutions by organisations and local government?
- What are the opportunities for the digitisation of public transport?

### APRIL

#### The 6G Revolution – Strengthening the UK's Wireless Infrastructure for the Next Generation

**Looking at the role of Government and Industry in paving the way for a more connected future**

*Member's Event: Roundtable*

*Date: TBC*

*Theme:*

- How can the UK Government support homegrown 6G technology?
- How will the PSTN switch off impact the UK and are businesses prepared for this?
- How can we embed sustainability into the next generation of wireless infrastructure?
- Does current government investment in R&D allow the UK to compete with other nations?

### MAY

#### Tackling Safety Issues for Women and Others Online

**From misogynistic abuse to the dynamics within online dating and gambling, what steps are needed to tackle safety issues for women and others online?**

*Member's Event - Panel*

*Date: TBC*

*Theme:*

- What steps can the Government take to prevent cyberflashing and sexual harassment online?
- Beyond legislation, what steps can individual organisations take to ensure women using their services are adequately protected?
- How is pervasive online advertising now targeting women struggling with the cost-of-living crisis and how can this be addressed?
- How can we encourage more women to enter the sector to help address gender bias in AI and data?
- How can the tech sector drive a national and local campaign of sufficient and specific digital upskilling for women?



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### JUNE

#### The Implications of the Digital Markets, Competition, and Consumer Bill (Potentially in Collaboration with the Digital Regulation Cooperation Forum)

**What will the wide-ranging reforms mean for the industry and for the UK as a whole?**

*Member's Event – Roundtable*

*Date: TBC*

#### *Theme:*

- Is the Bill proportionate, effective and fair?
- Is the CMA sufficiently resourced to implement its proposed new powers?
- How can we ensure consumers are kept informed on changes to the law?
- Will the proposed fines system impact negatively on the UK's ability to attract inward investment?
- Does the Digital Markets Unit capture the correct segment of the industry?
- Does the Bill offer a more flexible counterpart to the EU's regulatory regime?

### JULY

#### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Rally - 'Celebrating Diversity in Tech'

**Equipping people from all backgrounds with the necessary skills for a career in tech.**

*Member's Event – Reception in the House of Commons*

*Date: TBC*

#### *Theme:*

- How can the digital skills agenda help tackle the socio-economic digital divide?
- How can we ensure the cost-of-living crisis does not impact the education and recruitment of the next generation of tech professionals?
- Is the UK Immigration System fit for purpose in order to attract and retain top international talent?
- How can PICTFOR members, the tech sector and the wider tech community further collaborate to maintain momentum and best practice when looking to diversify the sector?
- How do we ensure that entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs have the adequate digital skills needed to compete in the online world?
- How do we ensure access to growing pockets of the sector such as AI and quantum computing?

### SEPTEMBER

#### Digital Legislation and Trade

**The Electronic Trade Bill and The Data Protection and Digital Information Bills**

*Member's Event - Roundtable*

*Date: TBC*

#### *Theme:*

- How will the Bills impact the free flow of personal data between the UK and the EU?
- Do the Bills contain sufficient safeguards to ensure data is protected?
- What can the Government do to ensure businesses have the required knowledge and resources to implement the regulation?
- What cost impact will the Bills have on British SMEs?
- How will the legislation affect privacy in the UK?
- Does the new regulatory regime encourage innovation?



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### OCTOBER

#### Report Launch: How can the Tech sector drive economic growth and help to address the cost of living crisis?

Member's Event – Reception

Date: TBC

Theme:

- Exploring the role of the tech sector and PICTFOR's industry membership in addressing the cost-of-living crisis, driving economic growth and bridging the digital divide

### NOVEMBER

#### Annual Dinner

Theme: TBC

Member's Event – Reception and three course dinner in House of Lords

Date: TBC

If you would like to sponsor one of the above events or have an idea for an event you would like to sponsor, the Secretariat would love to hear from you at [events@pictfor.org.uk](mailto:events@pictfor.org.uk).

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