

# New expert group to boost UK innovation

- government announces Cathryn Ross – BT’s Director for Regulatory Affairs – is appointed the first Chair of the new Regulatory Horizon Council
- the Regulatory Horizon Council will look at reforms to the UK’s regulatory system and advise government on how to remove barriers to innovation
- the council forms part of the government’s plans to make the UK the best place in the world to do business

Cathryn Ross has been appointed as the first Chair of the new Regulatory Horizon Council, a government-backed committee to ensure that UK regulation keeps pace with innovation and enables it to thrive while safeguarding the public.

Business Minister Nadhim Zahawi has appointed Cathryn Ross, the Group Regulatory Affairs Director at BT, as the first chair of the committee, which was a key recommendation from the white paper on [Regulation for the fourth Industrial Revolution](#).

It will be responsible for:

- advising government on regulatory reform to bolster the rapid and safe development and introduction of emerging products, services and business models in the UK
- working with innovators, businesses, academics and regulators to scan the business horizon for technological innovation and trends, building on existing work and data across government
- delivering a regular report with recommendations on priorities for regulatory reform to put the UK at the forefront of the industries of the future

Business Minister Nadhim Zahawi said:

The government is determined to make the UK the best place in the world to do business and a key part of that is getting our regulations right. We already have a thriving tech sector, worth £184 billion to the economy every year, and this council will help supercharge this sector through more agile regulations.

Cathryn’s leadership of the council will help us ensure our regulatory system keeps pace in a fast-changing world.

Cathryn Ross said:

I am delighted to be appointed as the inaugural Chair of the

Regulatory Horizons Council. The council will play an important role in ensuring an outcome focused, and flexible regulatory system in the UK.

Our aim will be to enable innovation to thrive while protecting citizens and the environment.

Regulatory practices in the UK were given the highest overall country score by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2018. This new council will look at what more can be done to support technological breakthroughs and help make the UK economy the most innovative in the world.

Cathryn Ross is the Group Regulatory Affairs Director at BT Group.

At BT Cathryn is responsible for developing and implementing BT's regulatory strategy across the group, covering regulation in the UK and beyond.

Cathryn is an economist by profession and earlier in her career worked at the Office of Rail Regulation, the Competition Commission, Ofcom and as a consultant.