

Government launches £1.5 million AI programme for reducing carbon emissions

- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy launches new innovation programme supporting the use of artificial intelligence to reduce carbon emissions
- the AI for Decarbonisation programme forms part of the government's £1 billion Net Zero Innovation Portfolio
- the programme aims to stimulate further innovation in the UK in AI, to drive growth and achieve Net Zero targets

Today (Tuesday 22 November) the government has launched a new innovation programme which will support the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to reduce the UK's carbon emissions.

The AI for Decarbonisation Programme, backed by £1.5 million in funding, forms part of the government's £1 billion [Net Zero Innovation Portfolio](#), and comprises separate streams of grant funding to be launched in 2 initial stages.

Stream 1, worth up to £500,000, will be made available to co-fund a virtual centre of excellence on AI innovation and decarbonisation through to March 2025, while Stream 2, worth up to £1 million, will fund innovation projects which further the development of AI technologies to support decarbonisation.

Later in 2023, the government intends to make additional funding available to support priority areas in AI innovation identified by the virtual centre of excellence as being critical for achieving net-zero.

Science Minister George Freeman said:

The UK is one of the world's most advanced AI economies, and AI technology is already having a transformative impact on our economy and society. But there is tremendous potential to do more.

The AI for Decarbonisation programme offers an exciting opportunity to leverage and develop the UK's outstanding expertise in the field. Putting this rapidly-evolving technology into action will enable us to save energy costs for businesses and households, create high-value, skilled jobs, and kickstart millions of pounds of private investment while supporting our net zero targets.

The programme's objective is to stimulate further innovation in the UK in the AI sector, to drive growth and achieve our net zero ambitions by encouraging collaboration in the field across the technology, energy and industrial

sectors. The programme builds on ideas developed in the [National AI Strategy](#) published last year which set out the ways in which AI is able to support the UK in meeting its decarbonisation targets.

Projects specifically encouraged to bid for funding include uses of AI which could enable a faster transition to renewable energy, decarbonise industry by improving energy productivity and fuel switching, and decrease emissions in the agricultural sector.

The AI for Decarbonisation Programme is anticipated to increase market growth in the UK, reduce the cost of energy for a more competitive UK industry, leverage private investment in AI, and increase the consideration of ethics, bias and equity in AI technologies with decarbonisation applications.

The programme opens for applications on 22 November 2022, and closes on 19 January 2023. Applications can be made through the [AI for Decarbonisation funding page](#).

[Companies urged to file accounts early and online to avoid penalties](#)

Running your own company can be exciting but also challenging. Directors have lots of responsibilities including keeping company records up-to-date and making sure they're filed on time.

All limited companies, whether they trade or not, must deliver annual accounts to us each year. **This includes dormant companies.**

File early

It's the directors' responsibility to file a company's accounts. You could get a criminal record, a fine or disqualification if you do not deliver your accounts on time.

Even if an accountant files your company's accounts on your behalf, it's still your responsibility to make sure they're filed on time.

We'll send you an email to confirm we've received your accounts. We'll send you another email when we've registered your accounts.

If you're a small company, you cannot file abbreviated accounts anymore. Find out your [accounts filing options for small companies](#).

File online

Our online services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – and there are inbuilt checks to help you avoid mistakes.

It can take as little as 15 minutes from start to finish and you'll know your accounts have been delivered on time.

To file online, you'll need your [company authentication code](#). If you need to request a new code, you should allow up to 5 days for this to arrive at the company's registered office.

Avoid rejections

You should only send paper accounts if your company cannot file online.

Accounts filed on paper need to be manually checked. We can only check them during [office opening hours](#), and they can take over a week to process.

If you need to file your accounts on paper, you should send them to us well before the deadline. This will give you plenty of time to correct your accounts and resend them if they are rejected. You should also consider using a guaranteed next day delivery and note any [industrial disputes](#) or other factors, which may make it difficult for a carrier to deliver on time.

We cannot accept postal delays as a reason to appeal a late filing penalty.

Guidance and support

[Register for email reminders](#) to know when your accounts are due. You can also check your filing deadline on our [Find and update company information service](#).

Watch [our YouTube videos](#) and [recordings of previous Companies House webinars](#) for guidance on how to use our online services and information about directors' responsibilities.

More information about:

Companies House introduced the new [WebFiling account](#) in September. It has improved security features and gives you more freedom to self-manage your account.

[Read about the introduction of the new WebFiling account.](#)

Investigation into cloud gaming and browsers to support UK tech and consumers

The Competition and Markets Authority consulted on launching a market investigation alongside its [Mobile Ecosystem Market Study](#) report, which found that Apple and Google have an effective duopoly on mobile ecosystems that allows them to exercise a stranglehold over operating systems, app stores and web browsers on mobile devices.

Browsers are one of the most important and widely used apps on mobile devices. Most people use their browser at least daily to access online content such as information, news, videos and shopping. 97% of all mobile web browsing in the UK in 2021 happens on browsers powered by either Apple's or Google's browser engine, so any restrictions on these engines can have a major impact on users' experiences.

Computer games are a multi-billion pound industry in the UK, played by millions of people. There are already more than 800,000 users of cloud gaming services in the UK but restrictions on their distribution on mobile devices could hamper growth in this sector, meaning UK gamers miss out.

Responses to the consultation, which have been published today, reveal substantial support for a fuller investigation into the way that Apple and Google dominate the mobile browser market and how Apple restricts cloud gaming through its App Store. Many of those came from browser vendors, web developers, and cloud gaming service providers who say that the status quo is harming their businesses, holding back innovation, and adding unnecessary costs.

Web developers have complained that Apple's restrictions, combined with suggested underinvestment in its browser technology, lead to added costs and frustration as they have to deal with bugs and glitches when building web pages, and have no choice but to create bespoke mobile apps when a website might be sufficient.

Ultimately, these restrictions limit choice and may make it more difficult to bring innovative new apps to the hands of UK consumers. At the same time, Apple and Google have argued that restrictions are needed to protect users. The CMA's market investigation will consider these concerns and consider whether new rules are needed to drive better outcomes.

Market investigations can result in changes to companies' behaviour and restrictions, which improve competition and lead to greater choice for consumers and better-quality products.

Sarah Cardell, interim Chief Executive of the CMA, said:

We want to make sure that UK consumers get the best new mobile data services, and that UK developers can invest in innovative new apps.

Many UK businesses and web developers tell us they feel that they are being held back by restrictions set by Apple and Google. When the new Digital Markets regime is in place, it's likely to address these sorts of issues. In the meantime, we are using our existing powers to tackle problems where we can. We plan to investigate whether the concerns we have heard are justified and, if so, identify steps to improve competition and innovation in these sectors.

For more information, visit the [mobile browsers and cloud gaming market investigation](#) page.

1. A market investigation by the CMA is an in-depth investigation led by CMA panel members. The CMA must generally conclude a market investigation within 18 months from the date that the reference is made. Market investigations consider whether there are features of a market that have an adverse effect on competition (AEC). If there is an AEC, the CMA has the power to impose its own remedies on businesses and it can also make recommendations to other bodies such as sectoral regulators or the government – when legislation might be required for example. The CMA has wide powers to change the behaviour of firms, such as governing the way a product is sold in a particular market and the information that is available to customers buying that product. The CMA also has the power to impose structural remedies which can require companies to sell parts of their business to improve competition.
2. The CMA's work to date has identified widespread concerns in relation to digital advertising and mobile ecosystems. It has concluded that it can tackle these issues most effectively with its anticipated new powers via the Digital Markets Unit, which will allow the CMA to actively monitor, enforce and update remedies. The CMA continues to support the government to bring forward the necessary legislation, which it committed to in the Autumn Statement on 17 November 2022. In the meantime, the CMA is committed to using its existing powers to deliver one-off interventions in digital markets, where these are found to be necessary to improve outcomes for UK consumers and businesses. In particular, should the market investigation find problems with cloud gaming and mobile browsers, it may be able to tackle these via a one-off removal of restrictions.
3. For media enquiries, contact the CMA press office on 020 3738 6460 or press@cma.gov.uk.

Maidenhead company director prosecuted for obstructing an SIA investigation

Press release

On Friday 11 November 2022, Muhammad Imran was prosecuted in his absence at Reading Magistrates' Court for failing to supply information to the Security Industry Authority (SIA).



Security Industry Authority

Mr Imran, a company director from Maidenhead, was fined £440 and required to pay £1,953.50 prosecution costs plus a £44 victim surcharge.

Mr Imran's company MNMFM Ltd was the supplier of security to an Oldham supermarket. On 28 August 2021 the store's retail manager noticed that the usual security operative was replaced by an unidentified man who was unlicensed. The manager notified the SIA who began an investigation.

SIA investigators sent a request for information to Mr Imran last December. He responded but failed to provide the information that had been requested. The SIA sent a further request for information last February which Mr Imran ignored. He also failed to respond to a request to attend an interview under caution, which would have given him the opportunity to respond to the allegations. This left the SIA with no option but to prosecute Mr Imran.

Jenny Hart, one of the SIA's criminal investigation managers said:

Mr Imran failed to engage with the SIA, whose purpose is to administer the private security licensing regime that protects the public. If there are unlicensed operatives working in supermarkets the public are put at risk. I'd like to thank the Oldham store for their co-operation with this case. As a licence holder Mr Imran was reasonably expected to comply with requests for information from his regulator. He ignored this request and has now ended up with significant costs, no licence, and a criminal record.

Notes to editors:

- By law, security operatives working under contract must hold and display a valid SIA licence
- [Read about SIA enforcement and penalties](#)
- The offence relating to the Private Security Industry Act (2001) that is mentioned above is: section 19 – failing to provide information relating to an investigation

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the [Private Security Industry Act 2001](#). The SIA's main duties are the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
- For further information about the Security Industry Authority or to sign up for email updates visit: www.gov.uk/sia. The SIA is also on [LinkedIn](#) [Facebook \(Security Industry Authority\)](#) and [Twitter \(@SIAuk\)](#).

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[Car crash exposes man with forged security licence](#)

Press release

A Southend man without the legal right to work in the UK was caught with a forged Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence after he was injured in a car accident in Bristol.



Security Industry Authority

On Monday 14 November, Ahmed Altorshan was handed a 17 weeks' jail sentence, suspended for 12 months, by Southend-on-Sea Magistrates' Court. He was also ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work and pay £500 prosecution costs plus a victim surcharge of £128. The sentence follows his guilty plea to fraud on 30 September 2022.

The SIA brought the prosecution following the road accident when the car that Mr Altorshan was driving hit a tree in Bristol on 29 April 2021. As Mr Altorshan was injured, he was taken to hospital. Police officers investigating the incident recovered multiple identity cards, including a forged SIA door supervisor's licence, from the car.

The forgery was of a genuine licence held by a legitimate licence holder. Avon and Somerset Police referred the incident to Home Office Immigration, who contacted the SIA.

Essex Police went to Mr Altorshan's address in Southend-on-Sea to search the property for further evidence. As Mr Altorshan wasn't at the address, SIA investigators sought an interview under caution with him (with the aid of an interpreter) on 28 February 2022 at a separate address. He admitted to paying for the fraudulent document but claimed that he didn't use the licence to gain work.

The presiding district Judge said:

You paid for this card to be made as you had been unable to find employment. At the time there was a good reason for that as due to your immigration status you could not legally work in this country... you could have put members of the public at risk as you would be unable to protect them without the proper training or you would have had access to vulnerable individuals without the relevant safeguarding training.

Jenny Hart, one of the SIA's criminal investigations managers said:

Mr Altorshan's road accident revealed the possession of a fraudulent SIA licence, which is both illegal and unacceptable. We are grateful to our enforcement partners Avon and Somerset Police, Essex Police, and Home Office Immigration for helping to identify this licensing fraud. The licensing regime is there to protect the public by ensuring that licence holders are fit and proper and suitably trained. Thankfully Mr Altorshan did not use the licence but he broke the law, has been handed a serious sentence and now has a criminal record.

Notes to editors:

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the [Private Security Industry Act 2001](#). The SIA's main duties are the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
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