

Oscar Krane

WE ARE ENGAGEMENT

EVENT PROGRAMME

Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th February



EXCELLENCE
IN CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT



The public sector is going through the biggest transformation in modern times. In the last couple of years we've seen departments merge, re brand and sometimes disappear completely, but that doesn't mean that the work they did just disappears.

In order to increase efficiency more departments are looking at hot desking and flexible working, with this comes risk associated with data and Cyber security. So how do departments make data accessible whilst making it easy enough for people to gain access?

The relationship between central government and the private sector is also changing. The relationship is now more of a partnership as oppose to client-supplier due the fact that with the demand landscape constantly changing suppliers need to be flexible enough to adapt to the changing needs of the department they are supplying to. As well as having to manage their relationships with their suppliers differently, Central Government are also having to work with localised public sector

organisations in a different way, whether it be an NHS Trust, Local Authority or Blue Light organisation.

The Excellence In Central Government event brings together civil servants from all organisations under Chatham House rule with no press in attendance allowing all delegates to speak openly and frank about the challenges they are facing and what they are doing to solve them.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Civil Service Reform • Public Trust and Accountability
- Operating in a post Brexit climate • Workforce and Talent Management • Crisis Management and Public Health • International Relations and Geopolitics • Digital Transformation and Technology • Political Pressure and Policy Uncertainty
- Budget Constraints and Efficiency Demands • Devolution and Coordination with Local Governments

TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY

15:00 - 18:00 HOTEL CHECK-IN AND FREE TIME



18:45 - 19:30 REGISTRATION AND DRINKS RECEPTION

19:30 - 22:00 NETWORKING DINNER

Wotton House
Country Estate Hotel
Guildford Road,
Wotton, Dorking
RH5 6HS

WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

07:45 – 08:20 **REGISTRATION, TEA, COFFEE & PASTRIES**

08:20 – 08:30 **CHAIR'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**



Glen Hymers, Chief Information Security Officer



**Cabinet Office
Digital**

08:30 – 09:00 **DIGITAL, AI & DECISION POWER: THE RAF JOURNEY, KEY LEARNINGS**



This keynote shares the RAF's digital journey as both a leadership and technology challenge. Arif Mustafa will explain how the maturity of Digital and AI has grown in the RAF and become mission-critical enablers of decision-making in one of the UK's most complex operating environments.

Drawing on practical experience from defence, he will explore how organisations can build decision power by combining technology with culture, governance and skills. The talk will cut through AI hype, set its impact in historical context, and offer some grounded lessons for central government leaders seeking to deliver better outcomes, faster decisions and greater organisational resilience in an era of constant change.



Arif Mustafa, Chief Information Officer

09:00 – 09:30 **THE DIPLOMAT – NAVIGATING AI, SCIENCE, SPACE AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**



This presentation will look at the challenges faced by government and industry globally around technology, geopolitics and global security including the advances in AI and the impact it can have to every single individual and entity. Vanda will talk about the work the FCDO are doing to help countries address these challenges and what advanced can be gained when collaborating.

Vanda Green, Regional Director (Science and Technology Network, China)



**Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office**

09:30 – 10:00

CASE STUDY PRESENTATION

10:00 – 10:30

THE IMPACT OF AI AND AGENTS CROSS-GOVERNMENT INSIGHT



HM Revenue & Customs is implementing its Transformation Roadmap enabling cross-government data and insight sharing which will further help to improve customer service, close the tax gap and drive reform whilst modernising its way of work.

Simon will discuss how AI can enable this transformation in working.



**HM Revenue
& Customs**

Simon Price, Director of Insight, AI and Innovation

10:30 – 11:30

TEA, COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK

11:30 – 12:00

CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION WITHIN THE HOME OFFICE



Abu Ahmed, Head of the Joint Security & Resilience Centre at the Home Office will discuss the various change and transformation programmes being undertaken and what other Central Governments need to think about when embarking on a delivering similar programmes.



Home Office

Abu Ahmed, Deputy Director – Homeland Security Group

12:00 – 12:30

TRANSFORMATION AND PEOPLE – TAKING PEOPLE THROUGH CHANGE



Themes to be addressed include:

- Transformation / Innovation
- Strategic Content
- Change Management



HM Treasury

Tanya Hughes, Deputy Director Human Resources

12:30 – 13:00

CASE STUDY PRESENTATION

13:00 – 13:45

LUNCH

13:45 – 14:15

TEA, COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK

14:15 – 14:45

TREATING GOVERNMENT CORPORATE DATA AS AN ASSET RATHER THAN A SECRET



With the success of the Shared Services for Government Strategy, a wider range of corporate and back-office services could soon be delivered by clusters to all departments and ALBs. Through this, data on finance, HR, skills, training, qualifications, professional experience, security and much more, will be held by the new cluster Enterprise Resource Planning IT systems. Linking data between these could enable the secure and timely flow of information to decision makers for budget setting, crisis management and workforce planning.

It could provide a platform for innovative data science and AI to analyse otherwise unnoticed trends and patterns, model scenarios and forecast. It would stop the reluctance to share data and speed up government, standardising approaches and giving staff access to their information wherever they move across government.

Matthew McKeown, Deputy Director Strategy



14:45 – 15:10



INFORMATION V'S DATA

The ultimate battle royale, who wins and does the business care?

The British Business Bank has grown vastly and at a quick pace introducing new products, bringing together different legal entities and programmes of work to support the economy by plugging gaps in the financial market for UK businesses.

Over the past year the bank has been transforming to a new target operating model and alongside that key considerations emerged regarding a vision and strategy for Information and Data.

Learn about how the bank has tackled the information vs data question and driven a strategic approach to begin breaking down silos across the data and information enterprise.

Phillipa Nazari, Director – Data and Information Governance / DPO



15:15 – 15:45

CASE STUDY PRESENTATION

15:45 – 16:15

TEA, COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK

16:15 – 16:45



ENHANCING TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Core areas to be addressed:

- Overview of OSCAR system and how it works cross government
- System maintenance
- Planning and delivering upgrades
- Avoiding building something legacy
- Prioritising digital first cloud infrastructure

Martin Beale, Head of Service Management and Engagement



16:45 – 17:15

FROM AI POLICY TO PUBLIC VALUE: BUILDING AN AGENTIC, TRUSTED AND HUMAN-CENTRIC DIGITAL STATE



The focus of this presentation will be on how governments move beyond AI strategies, pilots and compliance frameworks toward measurable public value – reduced administrative burden, time saved, higher service quality, increased revenue and trust.

Ott will frame this through the lens of an agentic state: a model where data, AI and institutions act proactively, transparently and at scale, while keeping humans firmly in the loop. Focus would be on concrete cases and approaches.

Ott Velsberg, Chief Data Officer, Ministry of Justice and Digital Affairs



17:15 – 17:45

CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WITH NATO



Paul Carcone, SO1 Operations, UK Delegation to NATO



17:45 – 18:00

CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS AND EVENT FINISH
