PRE-READ FOR GUESTS

Governing Intelligent Systems

THE LONDON SALON

Where does responsibility sit when a system acts on an institution's behalf?

Thank you for joining us at the Royal Society on Wednesday. This pack is meant to help you arrive with the evening's questions already in mind: a short summary of Horizon Scan 002, the new HSI research that will frame the discussion, followed by the running order and the guest list. The full Scan is online for anyone who wants more. There is no need to read it beforehand.

David Lovejoy, Founding Executive Director

DATE	TIME	VENUE	FORMAT
Wednesday 7 October 2026	6.00 pm reception 9.30 pm close	The Royal Society 6–9 Carlton House Terrace London SW1Y 5AG	Seated dinner and moderated roundtable

THE RUNNING ORDER

18:00–18:45	Reception and arrivals
18:45–18:50	Welcome
18:50–19:20	Dinner: first course
19:20–19:35	HSI research framing: *Governing Intelligent Systems*
19:35–19:45	Invited response
19:45–21:10	Moderated roundtable
21:10–21:25	Closing reflections
21:25–21:30	Close

The roundtable is held under the Chatham House Rule. Participants are free to use what is said, but not to identify who said it.

HORIZON SCAN 002 · SEPTEMBER 2026

AI Governance, in brief

Artificial intelligence is already being ruled, in detail and at speed, by institutions that were never appointed to the job.

The Scan follows AI governance from international commitments, through the institutions shaping deployment, to a comparison of legislation and enforcement across seven major regimes. It finds broad agreement on principles and sharp differences in who can put them into effect. Where statute is absent or slow, governance flows to whoever already holds operational control.

0 of 5

selected international AI governance forums since Bletchley created a binding enforcement mechanism

36 of 38

consequential AI enforcement actions since 2023 ran on laws written before AI; the other two were in China

5 of 7

regimes in which suppliers of power, sites and chips hold the strongest binding constraint on AI

WHAT THE SCAN FINDS

I **Declarations bind only when someone pays for ignoring them.** States share a vocabulary of transparency and oversight, but most commitments were never built to carry a cost. AUKUS Pillar 2 took five years to yield one AI deliverable; BRICS's eleven signatories run five incompatible regulatory logics.

II **The binding constraints sit in four layers.** Physical (grid queues, capacity auctions, chip supply), geopolitical (export controls and customs), accountability (payment networks, insurers, courts) and evidence (who can measure what AI is doing). In each, the formal rulemakers arrive late or govern sideways.

III **A fourth point of control is forming: the certificate.** Certifiers and accreditors increasingly decide market access. UKAS accredited BSI to certify against ISO/IEC 42001, and an insurer's 51 audited controls, priced into premiums, form the strictest AI agent rulebook in force across the regimes surveyed.

IV **Rules written are not rules enforced.** The EU has written the most, with most AI Act penalties now scheduled for 2027–28. The US and Canada enforce more than they have legislated, through consumer, data-protection and securities law. The UK sits closest to balance: little written, little yet enforced.

V **The public capacity to see what AI is doing is thinning.** Official labour statistics are weakening in the US and UK just as the questions arrive, while the timeliest evidence now sits with payroll processors, hiring platforms and model providers, none of them obliged to publish.

READ THE FULL SCAN

The complete Scan, with its exhibits, enforcement register and works cited:
horizonsearch.org/publications/horizon-scans/002

FROM SECTION 2 OF THE SCAN

The London stress test

The Scan's four layers settle with unusual concentration on one city. London's three tightest constraints on AI are governed by rules between 10 and 141 years old, none of them written with AI in mind.

THE GRID

111%

Data-centre connection requests, about 50 GW, set against Britain's 45 GW national peak demand

Governed by the electricity connection regime, 1989

THE CABLES

~75%

Estimated share of UK-US cable capacity in two cables landing at Bude, Cornwall

Governed by subsea cable law dating from about 1885, now under consultation

THE ATTESTATION

46%

Of 118 financial firms surveyed by the Bank of England and FCA, those admitting only a partial understanding of the AI they use

Governed by the Senior Managers and Certification Regime, 2016

FROM SECTION 4 OF THE SCAN

Four priorities for institutional leaders

01 **Map who can change the conditions under which you operate.**

Follow an essential activity back through its model provider, cloud operator and grid connection to find the distant decisions that can change its cost or stop it.

02 **Make the cost of losing access part of the investment decision.**

Plan for thirty days without the main model provider, and use what that exercise reveals to decide what continuity is worth.

03 **Match a system's freedom to act with the ability to contain it.**

A system permitted to spend or change an account needs a tested way to suspend it, and a person who knows when to use it.

04 **Build evidence that can improve the next decision.**

Record where AI is used, which tasks move between people and systems, and what happens to the time and quality of the work.

FOR THE ROUNDTABLE

1. *When a grid operator, an insurer or a certifier sets the terms on which AI operates, who answers for the costs that fall outside its remit?*
2. *Should an accredited certificate become a condition of doing business, in procurement or underwriting, and what would it need to prove to deserve that weight?*
3. *If a named senior manager must answer for each decision, what must that person be able to see, stop and explain when the decision is made by an agent?*

Guests

In alphabetical order

Dr Bayes Ahmed SFHEA FRGS
Associate Professor in Risk and Disaster Science, University College London
Lead, UCL–IDMC Disaster Displacement Research Hub

Amitav Banerji
Projects Director, Global Leadership Foundation
Former Political Director, Commonwealth Secretariat

Dr Niccolò Caderni
Chair, Supervisory Board, EIT Culture & Creativity
Former European Space Agency Fellow, University of Cambridge

Dr Mark Charlton
Associate Director of Sustainable Development Goal Impact, De Montfort University
Net Zero Research Theme Director

Michael Cole-Fontayn Chartered MCSI
Chairman, Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment
Non-Executive Director, J.P. Morgan Securities plc

Mike Englander
Executive Vice President, Engagement & Outreach, and EU AI Delegate, Tortora Brayda Institute

Joachim von Halasz
Founder, Tuesday Club
Strategic adviser

Professor Edward Harcourt MBE
Director, Oxford Institute for Ethics in AI
Professor of Philosophy, University of Oxford; Fellow, Keble College

Dr Robert Hercock
Chief Research Scientist, BT Security Research Practice
Chartered Engineer; Fellow of the British Computer Society

Jonathan Low
Co-Founder and CEO, Scope AI

Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
President, London Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Chairman, Z/Yen Group
Chairman, United Kingdom Accreditation Service
695th Lord Mayor of the City of London

Sir Simon Manley KCMG
Former UK Permanent Representative to the WTO, UN and other international organisations in Geneva

Emma McGuigan FBCS
Chair, UK AI Assurance Stakeholder Consortium
AI Programme Lead, BCS
Former Global Management Committee member, Accenture

Professor Parvati Nair
Professor of Hispanic, Cultural and Migration Studies, Queen Mary University of London
Member, Academia Europaea; Fellow, Royal Society of Arts

Professor Paul Nemitz
Visiting Professor of Law, College of Europe
Former Director and Principal Adviser, European Commission, where he led the GDPR reform

Jack Perry
Chairman, The 48 Group

Henry Price
Founder & Managing Director, SI Units
Theoretical physicist, mathematician and data scientist

FOR HORIZON SEARCH INSTITUTE

Hosts

David Lovejoy
Founding Executive Director, Horizon Search Institute

Aurora Martinez Ramos
Founding Director, Horizon Search Institute
Former Chief AI Officer, Keralty

Ashwin Telang
Managing Editor, Horizon Search Institute

Abdullah Ishak Khan
Inaugural HSI Doctoral Fellow
Doctoral Student, Florida International University
Deputy Director, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority

Samuel Marson
Contributing Researcher, Horizon Search Institute
MSc Finance, London School of Economics
BA PPE, University of Oxford

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

Horizon Search Institute

Horizon Search Institute (HSI) is an independent nonprofit research institute. It studies how institutions and societies adapt when technological, human, planetary and geopolitical systems change at once, a condition HSI calls compound transition. Its research is organised around four pillars.

I	AI and Emerging Technology Governance
II	Human Capability Across the Life Course
III	Energy, Climate, Space and Long-Horizon Stewardship
IV	Networked Governance and Track II Dialogue

HSI publishes *Searchlight*, a weekly brief; Research Briefs; and Horizon Scans, the research reports that anchor its salons. Each salon is paired with a Scan: New York in June 2026 with Scan 001, London with Scan 002, and Tokyo, in development for 2027, with Scan 003.

The architecture we build now is the architecture we inherit.

INQUIRIES

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