CALL FOR EVIDENCE

REVIEW OF DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR THE ECONOMY AND THE FUTURE OF WORK IN WALES

SEPTEMBER 2018 (UPDATED NOVEMBER 2018)

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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to have been asked to lead on the Review of Digital Innovation for the Economy and the Future of Work in Wales. The review was established in response to the understanding that Wales, like many other countries across the World, will be fundamentally altered by the next technological revolution. The impact will not just be felt from an economic perspective but will also have a bearing on the future social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

If you read the scare stories we could all be left thinking that robots are coming for our jobs. The reality is likely to be somewhat different. Despite the challenges, there are some clear opportunities for Wales to use technology to enhance the way we live and work. I believe this recombination of technology and people will be fundamental to Wales' future and that, with the right approach, we can use technology to create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

I am keen that the review is able to hold the widest possible conversation with a range of stakeholders, not just those at the forefront of technology development. This Call for Evidence is very much the start of that conversation. I will be working with my Expert Panel to review the responses received and plan the next steps in our work to influence and engage the people, businesses and communities in Wales.

Professor Phil Brown
Chair, Review of Digital Innovation for the Economy and the Future of Work in Wales

BACKGROUND

It is being predicted that the next technological revolution will fundamentally alter the way we live, work, and relate to one another. A number of research studies have attempted to understand the likely scale and scope of this change and in doing so have identified emerging risk areas for Wales and its regions, industries, and job roles.

The *Review of Digital Innovation for the Economy and the Future of Work in Wales* was announced in March 2018. The review aims to gather further insight on the challenges and opportunities associated with digital innovation in the context of the Welsh economy and the future of work. The review is being chaired by Professor Phil Brown, Distinguished Research Professor at Cardiff University, and is being supported by a specially convened Expert Panel.

Final recommendations will be made by March 2019, although the review has the scope to provide ongoing advice so that new ideas can be tested and learnt from at the earliest opportunity. An interim report will be published by the end of November.

Further information on the review, its terms of reference and work activities to date, can be accessed online at:
https://beta.gov.wales/review-digital-innovation-economy-and-future-work-wales/terms-reference

ABOUT THIS CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The review is continuing to take evidence from a range of stakeholders from both inside and outside of Wales. A number of briefing papers have also been commissioned by the Chair in order to draw together technical information and research intelligence on existing and future policy commitments, international best practice and current trends associated with digital innovation.

The review would like to build on the ideas and evidence received to date by opening up the conversation to a wider audience. This call for evidence provides the opportunity for *all* stakeholders to give their input and highlight the actions they are taking, or would like to see taken, in response to the challenges and opportunities of digital innovation.

As well responding to the questions set out in this document, the review is keen to hear of any existing research or engagement activity which could be useful in shaping its work. Where possible, please make reference to these activities within your response.

This is not a statutory consultation by, or on behalf of, the Welsh Government. Responses will not be acknowledged individually. Information provided in response to this call for evidence may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the freedom of Information Act 2000.

Any personal information received will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal information will not be disclosed to third parties.

This Call for Evidence will stay live throughout the review period. However, to allow your input to have an influence on the final report and recommendations, responses are requested by **Friday 30th November**. This is an extension to the published deadline.

Respond online at:
https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/review-of-digital-innovation/

Responses can be submitted electronically to:
DigitalInnovationReview@gov.wales

Or in physical copy to:
Matthew Hicks – Review of Digital Innovation,
c/o Gail Evans, Welsh Government, Ladywell House, Newtown , SY16 1JB

For the purposes of the questions listed below, the term 'digital innovation' has been used to capture the wide range of technology advancements – both physical and digital – being made in automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, internet of things and large-scale data.

Perceptions on digital technology in Wales

1. What do you think are Wales' current strengths when it comes to digital innovation?

2. Are there specific digital technologies or capabilities where Wales is particularly strong compared to other parts of the UK or to other countries?

3. Which parts of the Welsh economy have found it relatively easy to adapt to digital technological change and which parts have found it relatively difficult?

4. How do you think jobs and skills have changed, or need to change, to complement the use of new digital technologies?

The challenges and opportunities of digital technologies

5. What do you see as the major challenges presented by digital technologies? [Please list up to 5]

6. What do you perceive to be the biggest opportunities presented by digital technologies? [Please list up to 5]

The future of digital innovation in Wales

7. What would you identify as the major drivers of digital innovation which will be critical in shaping the future of the Welsh economy and how people work? [Please list up to 5]

8. What actions are needed to future proof Wales' workforce in response to changes presented by digital technologies?

9. Looking forward, what actions does Wales need to take to make the most of the advancements being made in digital technologies now and in the next ten-twenty years?

10. How do you think the interests of the workforce can be heard in the pursuit of greater digital innovation?

11. How might the current strategy and policy approach in Wales need to change:
    (i)   in light of the opportunities and challenges posed by digital innovation; and,
    (ii) to ensure that digital innovation supports Fair Work and social and economic inclusion?

12. How could the public and private sectors in Wales work together to harness the benefits of digital innovation?

Final thoughts

13. In your opinion do technological advancements pose a greater threat or opportunity to the work you deliver? [Please state one]
    - Opportunity outweighs threat
    - Threat outweighs opportunity
    - Equally an opportunity and threat
    - Don't know

14. In your opinion do technological advancements pose a greater threat or opportunity to your current workforce? [Please state one]
    - Opportunity outweighs threat
    - Threat outweighs opportunity
    - Equally an opportunity and threat
    - Don't know

15. Do you have any other comments or areas relating to digital technology you would like to add?

16. Finally, if there is one issue relating to digital innovation which has the potential to keep you awake at night, what would it be?