UK NATIONAL DATA STRATEGY

Improving public services and the economy

H3		ACT	PLAN	TRACK	PARK		OPP	THR	NEU

The UK Government launched its National Data Strategy in September 2020 and published the detailed plan in December 2020. The strategy looks at how government can leverage existing UK strengths to boost the better use of data across businesses, government, civil society and individuals. It sets out four pillars of activity and five priority areas - or missions - for action.

The pillars reflect interconnected issues that currently prevent the best use of data in the UK. They are:

- Ensuring data foundations are fit for purpose
- Developing data skills for a data driven economy and data rich lives
- Ensuring data is appropriately accessible
- Driving safe and trusted use of data

The missions are:

- Unlocking the value of data across the economy
- Securing a pro-growth and trusted data regime
- Transforming government's use of data to drive efficiency and improve public services
- Ensuring the security and resilience of the infrastructure on which data relies

The Cabinet Office has established a new central digital and data office (CDDO) to lead delivery. Paul Willmott, founder of McKinsey Digital at McKinsey & Co, is to be chairman. Tom Read, former chief technology officer at the Cabinet Office, is the chief executive. CDDO will - alongside the Civil Service Digital, Data and Technology profession (CSDDT) - be responsible for delivering the strategy and ensuring the government can better leverage data and emerging technologies to improve public services and the economy.

THE ENERGY WHITE PAPER

Powering the UK's net zero future

H3		ACT	PLAN	TRACK	PARK		OPP	THR	NEU

The Government's Energy White Paper, released in December 2020, outlines what the UK will do to achieve its net-zero targets on carbon emissions by 2050. The key areas are:

- Consumers: there will be increased competition in the energy retail market and opportunities to save n energy by upgrading energy performance of homes and using smart technology.
- Power: the government will accelerate deployment of clean electricity generation through £1 billion investment in the UK's energy innovation programme
- Energy System: information about supply and demand will be used to drive greater efficiency and lower costs to consumers and promote innovation and competition in networks and in national and local energy markets. Electricity networks will be able to integrate increasing renewable generation and more electric vehicles (EVs), while controlling system costs.
- Buildings: there will be a drive to improve energy performance in existing and new buildings to reduce consumption and help keep bills affordable. This will include the transformation of heating for homes and workplaces from oil and gas to clean energy sources. The switch to clean energy will support up to 50,000 jobs across the UK by 2030.
- Industrial Energy: policies will focus on creating a sustainable future for UK manufacturing industry through improved energy efficiency and the adoption of clean energy technologies. The government will pursue its ambition to make the UK a world leader in the carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) and clean hydrogen, supporting up to 60,000 jobs by 2030. A new UK Emissions Trading Scheme - the world's first net zero emissions trading scheme - will underpin the decarbonisation of energy in the UK.
- Oil & Gas: government will work with the sector to transform the UK Continental Shelf to be a net zero basin by 2050 and to provide opportunities for oil and gas companies to repurpose their operations to abatement technologies such as CCUS or clean energy production such as renewables and hydrogen.

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