



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Viscount Camrose
Parliamentary Under
Secretary of State (Minister
for AI and Intellectual
Property)
3rd Floor, 100 Parliament
Street
London SW1A 2BQ

Rt Hon Baroness Stowell of Beeston
MBE,
Chair,
Communications and Digital Committee,
House of Lords,
London,
SW1A 0PW

W: www.gov.uk/dsit

15 May 2024

Dear Baroness Stowell,

I am writing to the Communications and Digital Committee to inform of the intention to publish the Government's Call for Views on the Code of Practice for Software Vendors on the 15 May 2024. Please see enclosed a copy of the call for views which will run for 8 weeks until 10 July 2024.

The UK economy is dependent on software to drive productivity, growth and innovation. Its security and resilience are vital to ensuring the day-to-day functioning of businesses and organisations. However, this dependency has created an attractive space for malicious actors to leverage weaknesses and vulnerabilities in software to bring businesses and operations to a halt.

In response to this pressing issue, in January 2024, the government published its [response to the call for views on software resilience and security for businesses and organisations](#). This outlined a package of policy measures to address the security and resilience of software in our digital supply chains. The primary aim of these policies is to set clear expectations for organisations that sell and develop software around how they should ensure the resilience of their products or services.

The resultant voluntary Code of Practice for Software Vendors has been co-designed with industry and academic leaders, as well as technical experts from the National Cyber Security Centre. The Code contains 21 provisions split over 4 principles, and outlines the actions that senior leadership can take to ensure that software is securely developed, built, distributed, and maintained, and that vendors are effectively communicating with their software customers. It is supplemented by technical controls and implementation guidance to support technical and development teams.

This Call for Views seeks feedback on the proposed Code of Practice, how it should be implemented, and the efficacy of the supporting materials. DSIT is also seeking input from stakeholders on what future interventions may be required to support both software vendors implementing the code of practice and organisations that use the code within their procurement processes. The information gathered from this Call for Views will ensure that this policy addresses the key concerns of those most affected, and that it is proportionate and effective against the risks it seeks to mitigate.

In conjunction with the Call for Views on the Code of Practice for Software Vendors, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology will simultaneously launch a Call for Views on the cyber security of AI. The Call for Views on AI outlines a proposed Code of Practice, with a view to developing a global standard to set baseline security requirements for AI Developers and System Operators. Outputs from both of these Calls for Views will have a significant impact in driving improved security behaviour across the software supply chain and providing increased confidence to organisations adopting digital products and services.

I have placed copies of this letter and a copy of the call for views document in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Camrose', written in a cursive style.

Viscount Camrose

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for AI and Intellectual Property)