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Utilisation of AI in the Health, Care, and Life Science Sectors Roundtable

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**Chaired by Rt Hon Andrew Stephenson CBE
Former Minister of State,
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Contents

Foreword	2
Executive Summary	4
Setting the Scene	7
AI in Healthcare Showcase	8
Case Studies	9
Key Themes and Challenges	19
Funding and Scalability	19
Data Quality, Access and Governance	20
Workforce Capacity and Skills	21
Procurement Pathways	22
Patient Trust and Engagement	22
Regulation and Future Proofing	23
Prevention and System-wide Thinking	24
Additional Insights	24
Conclusion	25
About Us	26
Endnotes	28

Foreword

Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents one of the most exciting and significant opportunities for the future of healthcare in the UK. The acceleration of AI technologies in recent years has created a moment where ambition must meet action. Drawing on insights from parliamentarians, innovators, academics, clinicians, and leaders across the healthcare and technology sectors, this report reflects on a comprehensive and dynamic discussion hosted by trade association for the AI economy in the UK, UKAI, and independent policy institute, Curia at the House of Lords.

The roundtable was designed to explore, with honesty and rigour, the barriers to the widespread adoption of AI within healthcare systems, to celebrate success stories, and, critically, to craft clear, strategic policy recommendations. As the participants demonstrated through vivid case studies and frank debate, AI is already beginning to reshape parts of the NHS, primary care, social care, and preventative medicine.

However, without decisive, co-ordinated action, the opportunity risks being lost to the complexity of the system, to cultural inertia, or to international competitors moving faster.

Joining former Life Sciences Minister and now Shadow Health Minister, Lord Syed Kamall and roundtable host Lord Graham Evans, and members of both UKAI and Curia the tone was set early: AI must be embedded in the health and care systems to serve patients, ease workforce pressures, and ensure sustainability. The discussion stressed that AI is not a luxury but a necessity to meet the demands of an ageing population, increasingly complex clinical challenges, and financial constraints.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both Lord Kamall and Lord Evans for hosting the roundtable and earlier showcase.

Alongside other speakers, CEO of Curia, Ben Howlett, and Co-Director of the NHS Innovation Accelerator, Mindy Simon contextualised the current policy landscape: a new government, a rapidly changing NHS structure, and the drive to operationalise ambitions through Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and devolved responsibilities. Recent government investments, such as the AI Diagnostic Fund¹ and the establishment of the NHS AI Lab², were welcomed. However, participants agreed that investment must be matched by implementation, practical support, and better alignment between national priorities and local delivery.

Throughout the session, multiple themes emerged: the critical role of high-quality data, the need for a simplified and accelerated procurement system, the urgent requirement for workforce development, and the absolute importance of maintaining patient trust and ethical governance. Participants also emphasised that AI in healthcare is not solely about hospitals; it must extend into primary care, public health, social care, and even preventative interventions at a societal level.

The testimonies shared by innovators working across diagnostics, documentation, patient engagement, and decision support systems painted a compelling picture of both the possibilities and the obstacles. Despite successes, many innovators described difficulties in scaling pilots, accessing funding, overcoming procurement bureaucracy, and navigating regulatory complexity.

Discussions also reflected an acute awareness that AI in healthcare demands new ways of working. It is not simply a matter of purchasing new technology; often entire clinical pathways and systems must be reimagined. Policymakers and healthcare leaders must think systemically and be prepared to engage in transformational change, rather than expecting AI to bolt onto legacy processes.

Above all, a note of urgency prevailed. AI is evolving at a remarkable pace. The UK risks falling behind if we do not move quickly to create a coherent framework that enables safe, scalable adoption, while protecting public trust. There is clear consensus that getting governance right – “just-in-time” governance, as one participant phrased it – is essential to harness the benefits of AI without introducing new risks.

The opportunities for AI to improve patient outcomes, personalise care, reduce health inequalities, and transform workforce productivity are real. This report captures the energy, insights, and recommendations from the roundtable to inform the steps ahead. It calls on policymakers, system leaders, and innovators alike to seize this moment: to embed AI into the DNA of the NHS and broader health ecosystem, for the benefit of all citizens.

Rt Hon Andrew Stephenson CBE
Roundtable Chair
Former Minister of State, Department
of Health and Social Care





Host, Lord Graham Evans of Rainow welcomes guests to the UKAI and Curia Healthcare in AI roundtable.

Executive Summary

The roundtable convened by UKAI and Curia's Health, Care, and Life Sciences Research Group brought together parliamentarians, NHS leaders, policymakers, innovators, industry representatives, patient groups, and academics to discuss the transformative potential of AI in health, care, and life sciences. Set against the backdrop of a new Labour Government committed to leveraging digital health technologies, the event provided a platform to assess the opportunities, challenges, and policy implications associated with AI integration into healthcare systems.

Participants recognised AI's ability to radically enhance healthcare delivery, revolutionise diagnostics, enable personalised and preventative care, and improve patient engagement. Case studies presented during the session vividly demonstrated the breadth of innovation underway across the UK and internationally. These included applications ranging from early cancer detection and stroke triage to the deployment of multilingual avatars supporting patient communication.