

[View this email in your browser](#)

# RAi CONNECT

Empowering and Connecting the Responsible AI Ecosystem

Welcome to RAI Connect, our monthly newsletter.

## Responsible Compute Call: AWS cloud compute credits for AI researchers

*A new funding call removes a practical barrier that holds back too much responsible AI research: the cost and complexity of accessing high-performance computing at scale.*

**Responsible Ai UK (RAi UK) has launched the Responsible Compute Call in partnership with Amazon Web Services, funds worth £200,000 in AWS cloud compute credits available to researchers and projects across the programme.** Awards of £2,500 or £5,000 in credits give researchers on-demand

access to Amazon's compute instances, machine learning services, scalable storage, and generative AI platforms, without the overhead of managing physical hardware. The call is designed for researchers whose work is currently constrained by access to scalable computing resources. By responsible compute, RAI UK means using these resources efficiently and proportionately, with due regard to the energy and carbon costs of large-scale computation and to the responsible conduct of the research itself.

Round 1 is now open for the researchers who have already received RAI UK funding, or who are currently part of the RAI UK programme. Future rounds will open quarterly and widen eligibility to all postdoctoral researchers and academic staff at UKRI-recognised institutions, until credits are fully allocated. Deadline for Round 1 is 17 July 2026 at 16:00 BST, full details and to apply, visit our [funding page](#).

CALL OPEN



## Responsible Compute Call

Total fund worth £200,000 of AWS Compute Credits for AI Researchers!

Full details available at [rai.ac.uk](https://rai.ac.uk)

**Congratulations to Prof Dame Wendy Hall,  
Chair of the RAI UK International**

## **Ambassadors Council, on her appointment as President of the British Science Association for 2026–27.**

Prof Wendy will deliver her Presidential Address in conversation with BBC Technology Editor Zoe Kleinman at the British Science Festival, hosted this year at the University of Southampton. She says: "I have long been an admirer of the work the British Science Association does to promote science in the UK and around the world. I will be able to use the platform to talk about the increased need for education in Artificial Intelligence and Web Science. I am excited to be part of this journey in the coming year and to follow in the footsteps of the distinguished past Presidents." [Read more.](#)

**RAi** Congratulations

PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

*"I have long been an admirer of the work the British Science Association does to promote science in the UK and around the world. I will be able to use the platform to talk about the increased need for education in Artificial Intelligence and Web Science. I am excited to be part of this journey in the coming year and to follow in the footsteps of the distinguished past Presidents."*



Prof Dame Wendy Hall  
Chair - RAI UK International  
Ambassadors Council

rai.ac.uk

## **Congratulations to Prof Marion Oswald MBE (Northumbria University) and Prof Claire Paterson-Young (University of Northampton) from RAI UK's PROBABLE Futures project, appointed to the Ministry of Justice's newly established Preventative Analytics for Youth Justice Advisory Panel.**

The independent panel, chaired by Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Jake Richards and meeting quarterly, will scrutinise proposals for using machine learning and advanced analytics to support early intervention in youth justice, ensuring any approaches are ethical, legally sound and in children's best interests. Their involvement will help shape how data and analytics can be used to better inform early intervention and prevention efforts across youth justice. More about [the panel here.](#)

**RAi**

Congratulations

*Prof Marion Oswald MBE  
and Prof Claire Paterson-Young  
from RAI UK's PROBABLE Futures  
project, for your appointment to the*

**Ministry of Justice's  
Preventative Analytics for  
Youth Justice Advisory Panel**

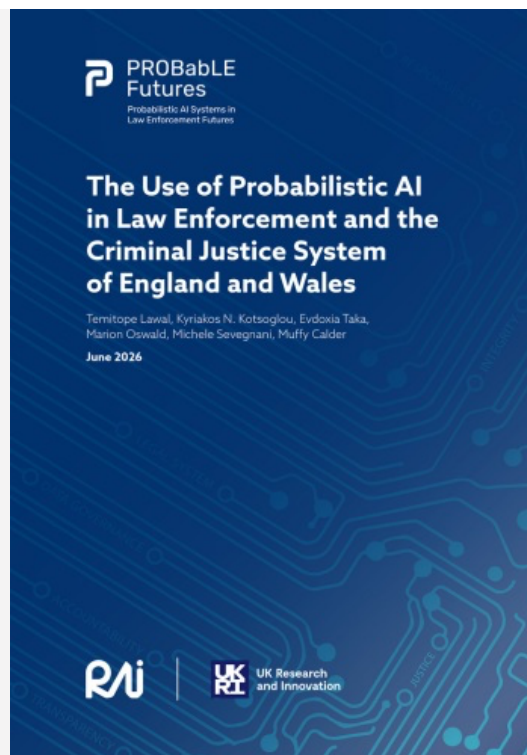
rai.ac.uk

## **AI in policing: An interactive mapping tool In a new study, RAI UK PROBABLE Futures Keystone Project has mapped 70 AI tools deployed, trialled or in development across policing and criminal justice in England and Wales.** It is the most comprehensive exercise of its kind to date.

The research finds AI delivering real value in transcription, redaction and crime analysis, but warns the principle of "human in the loop" oversight often exists in name only, with near-perfect accuracy tools at growing risk of no longer being checked at all. The accompanying interactive mapping tool and 26

recommendations are aimed squarely at the Home Office, PoliceAI and the College of Policing.

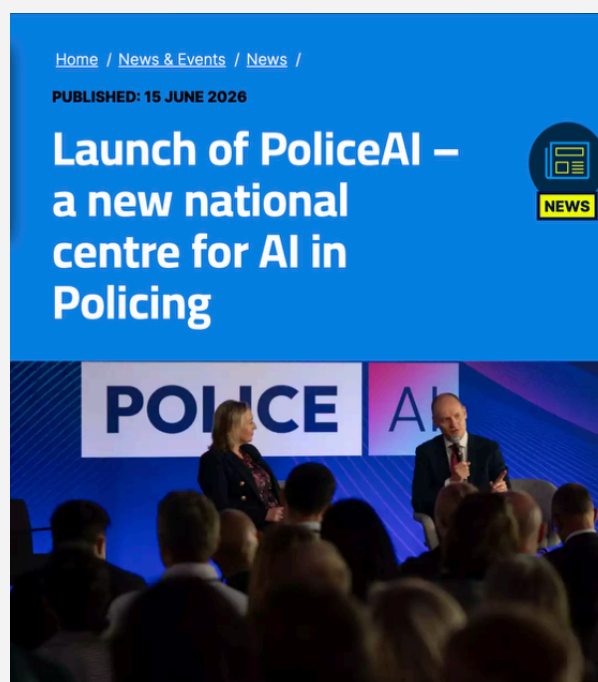
[The report](#) and [interactive mapping tool](#) are available online to explore further.



## PoliceAI: RAI UK at the launch of the UK's new national AI policing centre

RAi UK's PROBABLE Futures and AIPAS (based at CENTRIC) project teams attended the launch of PoliceAI earlier this month, a new national centre for AI in policing, backed by £75 million over three years and part of a wider £140 million government investment.

[Announcing the new centre](#), Crime and Policing Minister Sarah Jones confirmed PoliceAI will publish and maintain a public registry of AI tools in use across all 43 forces, developed in partnership with CENTRIC at Sheffield Hallam University, with a first version expected by autumn. National guidance on building, testing and running AI models will be backed by deepening government collaboration with the PROBABLE Futures academic team, led by Prof Marion Oswald and Prof Dame Muffy Calder, supported by £3.4 million in funding over four years. The launch also referenced AIPAS's public survey on attitudes to AI in policing, a direct output of RAI UK research. [Read the full story here.](#)



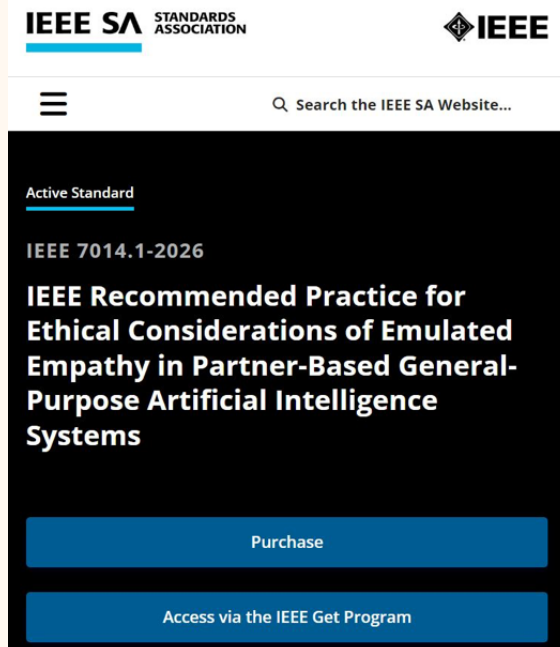
## New international standard sets the benchmark for ethical empathic AI

[The first international standard for the ethical design of AI companions, IEEE 7014\\_1, has been released this month](#), setting out 29 concrete recommended practices on

deception, manipulation, emotional dependency, children and intimacy. Built over 18 months by 70 researchers across multiple countries, it was chaired by RAI UK-funded project lead Prof Andrew McStay of Bangor University's Emotional AI Lab.

Prof McStay and Prof Vian Bakir also presented findings from the first UK national survey of teenage use of AI companions to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Artificial Intelligence's evidence session on youth perspectives.

**Read in full the [IEEE 7014.1 standard](#).**



The screenshot shows the IEEE SA website interface. At the top, there are logos for IEEE SA STANDARDS ASSOCIATION and IEEE. Below the logos is a search bar with the text "Search the IEEE SA Website...". The main content area features a dark background with the text "Active Standard" and "IEEE 7014.1-2026". The title of the standard is "IEEE Recommended Practice for Ethical Considerations of Emulated Empathy in Partner-Based General-Purpose Artificial Intelligence Systems". There are two blue buttons: "Purchase" and "Access via the IEEE Get Program".

## A framework for responsible geospatial AI, from London to Hiroshima

*[Responsible Geospatial AI Framework was showcased by RAI UK funded project at AWS Geospatial Day in London and GeoBusiness this month](#)*, with discussions underscoring a clear sector gap: organisations are rapidly adopting AI-enabled geospatial tools but lack shared standards for responsible use, documentation and public accountability. The framework directly addresses this, offering practical guidance on trustworthy, transparent and accountable GeoAI. Interest is already extending internationally, with the FOSS4G 2026 organising committee in Hiroshima expressing interest in featuring the work. The project is also developing a GeoAI Transparency Passport as a proof of concept. [Read more.](#)



## Podcast: The Age of AI: Is AI Fundamentally Biased? The Truth About AI Governance

In the latest episode of [The Age of AI](#), Lara Lewington and Ben Clark are joined by Raj Bharat Patel, AI Transformation Lead at Holistic AI, to explore whether AI is fundamentally biased — and whether that question is even the right one to ask. From hallucinations and accountability to regulation and trust, Raj argues that the biggest challenge facing AI is not the technology itself but how organisations choose to deploy it. The conversation tackles who is

responsible when AI gets things wrong, whether governance is more than box-ticking, and what could trigger the industry's next major reckoning. **New episodes every week, [tune in here](#).**



### UKAIRS 2026: registration is now open

Registration is now open for UKAIRS 2026, the UK's premier national gathering for the AI research community, taking place on 24–25 November at the John McIntyre Conference Centre, University of Edinburgh.

Two days bring together the talent driving UK AI research forward, with registration also including a Gala Dinner at the National Museum of Scotland. Organised in collaboration with UKRI, RAI UK, the national AI Hubs and CDT centres, UKAIRS remains the place to share work, build cross-disciplinary collaborations and help shape national research priorities. [Register here](#).



### AI and the Everyday World

*Inspired by Prof Michael Wooldridge's Royal Society Faraday Prize Lecture, our subscriber Neil Richardson writes [this latest blog](#) and offers his perspective on what today's large language models can, and cannot, do.*

Drawing on Prof Wooldridge's observation that LLMs are frequently inconsistent, error-prone and overconfident despite their remarkable technical feats, Richardson contrasts the probabilistic machinery of GPT-3 with Peter Checkland's Soft Systems Methodology, developed at Lancaster University. Where AI manipulates vast mathematical representations of the world, SSM uses plain English, freehand sketches and structured inquiry to help organisations work through complex, human-centred problems, a reminder that not



all useful models need to be large or data-hungry.

By Neil Richardson, (retired, NHS Kirklees Corporate Services 2003-2019). Read the [blog in full](#).

## Opportunities

An update on latest opportunities, funding, projects or activities.

- **EIC Accelerator**: Companies developing breakthrough technologies with global market potential can access one of Europe's most prestigious innovation funding programmes to accelerate commercialisation and scale-up. Deadline 08 July 2026.
- **Robotics Adoption Central Convening Body Summer 2026**: Innovate UK and DSIT are offering up to £2 million to a UK organisation to create a central convening body coordinating the new national network of Robotics Adoption Hubs. Deadline: 08 July 2026
- **Emerging Voices in AI and Society Fellowship**: The Center for Humane Technology is offering fellowships for mid-career researchers, writers and practitioners to produce public-facing work on AI's societal impacts. Fellows receive a \$30,000 stipend, editorial support and op-ed placement. Deadline 12 July 2026.
- **DSIT Open Consultation: Empowering People Through Data Intermediaries**: This consultation seeks views on how to develop a trusted UK market for data intermediaries, third-party services that enable individuals to exercise their data rights. Deadline 31 August 2026.
- **Sector Transition: UKRI Policy Fellowships 2026**: Fifty 18-month fellowship positions for early to mid-career researchers to bring academic expertise directly into policymaking on issues from AI in justice to energy security, public health and beyond. Deadline 10 September 2026.
- **UKRI Translation: Impact Acceleration Accounts 2027**: Institutional-level flexible funding to accelerate research impact across AHRC, EPSRC, MRC and STFC. Awards last three years from 1 April 2027. Deadline 15 September 2026.
- **EU Horizon - Enhancing the Security, Privacy and Robustness of AI Models and Systems (SecureAI)**: A €21.2 million Horizon Europe call seeking proposals to strengthen AI systems against adversarial attacks, backdoor injections and data poisoning. Deadline 15 September 2026.
- **Ethics and Artificial Intelligence - International Doctoral Course (Edition 2026)**: This online course will take place over 8 sessions between October and December 2026. It will offer an interdisciplinary pathway devoted to the main ethical, social, legal, and cultural issues raised by the development of AI. Registration via [this form](#), deadline 30 September 2026.

We'd love to hear your thoughts, stories or views.

Get in touch

Follow us





*Copyright (C) 2024 Responsible Ai UK. All rights reserved.*

This email was sent to [K.Mittal@soton.ac.uk](mailto:K.Mittal@soton.ac.uk)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Responsible AI UK · University Of Southampton, Faculty Of Engineering And Physical Sciences Univ · University Road · Southampton,  
Hampshire SO17 1BJ · United Kingdom