

**Westminster eForum policy conference:
Next steps for diversity in the UK technology workforce**

Timing: Morning, Friday, 6th November 2026

*****Taking place online*****

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER
eFORUM**

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Diversity, inclusion and workforce participation in the UK technology sector - strategic priorities, implementation and accountability**
Belton Fournoy, Managing Director, Technology Consulting, Protiviti
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Education and training pathways to tech careers - widening access, skills alignment and industry partnerships**
early outreach for STEM engagement / implications of the 2025 Curriculum and Assessment Review / teacher training and digital literacy / access to technical education, T Levels and vocational routes / apprenticeships and alternative pathways / reskilling / partnerships between schools, FE, HE and industry / mentoring, work placements and employer engagement / regional talent development / addressing socio-economic, gender, ethnicity and disability-related barriers / digital inclusion / alignment of training with employer demand in high-growth sectors / evaluating impact and outcomes
Michael Houlihan, CEO, UK and Ireland, Generation
Senior representative, education
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, partnerships
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.25 Break
- 10.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.40 **Improving opportunity and inclusion in technology careers - culture, leadership and learning from lived experience**
Senior commentator
- 10.50 **Improving retention, progression and workplace practice across the UK technology workforce**
priorities emerging from the Women in Tech Taskforce / recruitment, retention and progression / career development, sponsorship and leadership pathways / tackling harassment and discrimination / flexible and hybrid working / support for those with caring responsibilities / menopause and health-related support / gender pay and progression disparities / transparency, reporting and organisational accountability / measuring progress and evidence of what works / implications of employment rights developments / gender pay gap and menopause action plans / mid-career retention and returner pathways / practical approaches for employers of different sizes / organisational capacity and proportionate implementation / addressing intersectional barriers affecting women and other underrepresented groups
Lucy Ruck, Taskforces Manager, Business Disability Forum
Senior representative, workforce
Senior representative, industry
Senior representative, trade union
- 11.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Inclusive innovation and technology entrepreneurship - skills, funding and investment**
addressing barriers faced by underrepresented founders / access to finance, networks and opportunities to scale / investor practices and funding gaps / R&D, commercialisation and inclusive innovation pathways / tackling unconscious bias and existing inequalities in development of emerging tech / inclusive access to training and lifelong learning / alignment of skills provision with employer demand and innovation priorities / support for SMEs and scaling businesses to adopt inclusive practices / regional technology development and diversification
Check Warner, Founding Partner, Ada Ventures
Senior representative, technology
Senior representative, innovation
Senior representative, skills
Senior representative, start-ups
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **Policy priorities for an inclusive and diverse UK technology workforce**
Liz Kohorn-Hill, Deputy Director, Digital Inclusion and Women in Tech, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster eForum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Thomas Howard, Westminster eForum