# Former UK officials and Rishi Sunak deepen ties with AI giants amid emerging regulatory shifts



Former cabinet secretary Simon Case has taken a part-time advisory role at the US-based artificial intelligence firm Invisible Technologies, joining a growing list of former UK political and civil service figures moving into the AI sector. Case, who left his position as the UK’s most senior civil servant in December last year and now sits as a crossbench peer in the House of Lords, sought guidance from the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments (Acoba) before accepting the role. The watchdog has emphasised that he must avoid leveraging any privileged government information or using his former contacts to influence policy or secure business advantages for Invisible Technologies. It is understood that his advisory duties will not involve direct contact with government departments.

Invisible Technologies specialises in developing, training, and supporting third-party users of AI applications. Simon Case clarified to Acoba that he had no prior meetings with the company during his tenure in Whitehall. This move reflects a broader trend of former government officials engaging with the AI sector while navigating post-service employment regulations designed to prevent conflicts of interest.

In a parallel development, former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has similarly sought and received approval to take on senior advisory roles with both Microsoft and Anthropic, a San Francisco-based AI start-up noted for developing the Claude AI models. Sunak’s positions, like Case’s, are part-time and comply with UK post-ministerial employment rules, with explicit restrictions against influencing UK governmental policies or using inside information. Sunak has stated that all earnings from these roles will be donated to The Richmond Project, a numeracy skills charity he co-founded with his wife, Akshata Murty. This move follows his prior advisory role with Goldman Sachs, underlining his continuing influence within financial and technological spheres.

Microsoft’s engagement with Anthropic goes beyond advisory roles for former political leaders. The tech giant is strategically expanding its AI ecosystem by integrating Anthropic’s AI models into its Microsoft 365 Copilot assistant and GitHub service. This diversification effort demonstrates Microsoft’s intent to maintain a competitive and neutral stance in the AI landscape, incorporating multiple AI agents—including those from OpenAI and Anthropic—to support software development and productivity tools. Internal assessments cited by industry reports suggest Anthropic’s newer models, such as Claude Sonnet 4, outperform competitors in specialized tasks like financial automation and generating enhanced visual presentations for PowerPoint. This integration is part of a broader Microsoft initiative to blend AI capabilities from multiple providers within its suite of office applications.

The UK's regulatory environment for these AI-related appointments and partnerships is also evolving. Acoba, the advisory committee overseeing post-public service employment, has recently closed its functions, which are transferring to the Civil Service Commission. Meanwhile, the UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has recently reviewed major AI partnerships such as Amazon’s $4 billion deal with Anthropic, deciding not to investigate further due to jurisdictional limits. This regulatory backdrop illustrates how the AI sector’s rapid growth is intersecting with public governance, demanding careful scrutiny over conflicts of interest and fair competition.

These developments underscore a significant shift in the interface between government experience and the tech industry's AI advancements. As AI technologies become increasingly central to business and society, former government leaders are capitalising on their strategic expertise to advise leading AI firms, while regulatory bodies seek to balance innovation with ethical and procedural safeguards.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/ai-firm-recruits-ex-civil-service-boss-case-after-sunak-joins-microsoft-MZUVRMVZL5JVTM6OKIIXGBCS3Q/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/ai-firm-recruits-ex-civil-service-boss-case-after-sunak-joins-microsoft-MZUVRMVZL5JVTM6OKIIXGBCS3Q/), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/former-british-pm-sunak-joins-microsoft-anthropic-advisory-roles-2025-10-09/), [[7]](https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/former-british-pm-sunak-joins-microsoft-anthropic-advisory-roles-2025-10-09/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/microsoft-add-anthropics-ai-coding-agent-its-github-service-2025-05-20/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/business/microsoft-use-some-ai-anthropic-shift-openai-information-reports-2025-09-09/), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/business/microsoft-brings-anthropic-ai-models-365-copilot-diversifies-beyond-openai-2025-09-24/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/ai-firm-recruits-ex-civil-service-boss-case-after-sunak-joins-microsoft-MZUVRMVZL5JVTM6OKIIXGBCS3Q/), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/amazons-ai-partnership-with-anthropic-gets-uk-competition-watchdog-nod-2024-09-27/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/ai-firm-recruits-ex-civil-service-boss-case-after-sunak-joins-microsoft-MZUVRMVZL5JVTM6OKIIXGBCS3Q/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/former-british-pm-sunak-joins-microsoft-anthropic-advisory-roles-2025-10-09/> - Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has taken on senior advisory roles at Microsoft and AI startup Anthropic. These part-time positions comply with UK regulations governing post-ministerial employment. Sunak will focus on global strategy, macroeconomic, and geopolitical trends, explicitly avoiding UK policy or governmental interactions. He plans to donate all earnings from these roles to The Richmond Project, a charity he co-founded with his wife, Akshata Murty. This follows his earlier advisory role with Goldman Sachs, where he worked as an analyst in the early 2000s.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/business/microsoft-add-anthropics-ai-coding-agent-its-github-service-2025-05-20/> - Microsoft announced it will integrate Anthropic's AI coding agent into its GitHub service, joining its own newly introduced coding agent and another from OpenAI. This move signifies the company's strategy to support a broader range of AI tools rather than favouring a single provider. GitHub, a Microsoft-owned platform widely used by software developers to manage code, will now feature multiple AI agents capable of performing tasks like bug fixing on behalf of developers. The inclusion of Anthropic’s agent, from a startup backed by Google, highlights Microsoft’s commitment to maintaining a neutral position in the competitive AI landscape.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/business/microsoft-use-some-ai-anthropic-shift-openai-information-reports-2025-09-09/> - Microsoft is expanding its AI strategy by incorporating technology from Anthropic into its Office 365 applications, signalling a diversification beyond its long-standing reliance on OpenAI. According to The Information, Microsoft will blend AI from both Anthropic and OpenAI in tools like Word, Excel, Outlook, and PowerPoint. This decision follows internal assessments indicating that Anthropic’s latest models, particularly Claude Sonnet 4, outperform OpenAI’s offerings in specific tasks such as financial automation in Excel and the generation of more visually appealing PowerPoint presentations.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/amazons-ai-partnership-with-anthropic-gets-uk-competition-watchdog-nod-2024-09-27/> - The UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) announced it will not further investigate Amazon's $4 billion AI partnership with Anthropic, as it does not fall under its merger regulations. This decision acknowledges the CMA's lack of jurisdiction over the deal. An Amazon spokesperson welcomed the CMA's decision, and the regulator has similarly approved Microsoft's partnership with Inflection AI. However, Alphabet's collaboration with Anthropic remains under review. Anthropic, co-founded by former OpenAI executives Dario and Daniela Amodei, maintains its independence despite receiving substantial investments from several tech giants.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/business/microsoft-brings-anthropic-ai-models-365-copilot-diversifies-beyond-openai-2025-09-24/> - On September 24, 2025, Microsoft announced that it will integrate AI models from Anthropic into its Microsoft 365 Copilot assistant, reflecting a strategic effort to diversify beyond its reliance on OpenAI's technology. While OpenAI's models will continue to play a central role in powering Copilot, users will now have the option to choose between OpenAI and Anthropic models—specifically Claude Sonnet 4 and Claude Opus 4.1—within Copilot’s “Researcher” tool and Microsoft Copilot Studio for developing custom AI agents.
7. <https://www.reuters.com/business/retail-consumer/former-british-pm-sunak-joins-microsoft-anthropic-advisory-roles-2025-10-09/> - Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has taken on senior advisory roles at Microsoft and AI startup Anthropic. These part-time positions comply with UK regulations governing post-ministerial employment. Sunak will focus on global strategy, macroeconomic, and geopolitical trends, explicitly avoiding UK policy or governmental interactions. He plans to donate all earnings from these roles to The Richmond Project, a charity he co-founded with his wife, Akshata Murty. This follows his earlier advisory role with Goldman Sachs, where he worked as an analyst in the early 2000s.