# UK Secretary of State consults ChatGPT on AI policy matters



In a recent revelation, Peter Kyle, the UK Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, has been found to have sought advice from the artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT regarding various policy matters. Records obtained through freedom of information laws highlight Kyle's inquiries, which included questions about podcast appearances to enhance his outreach and the reasons behind the slow adoption of AI technology among small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the UK.

Kyle's inquiries reportedly began with a request for recommendations on which podcasts he should feature in to reach a wider audience. The chatbot suggested well-known programs such as "The Infinite Monkey Cage" and "The Naked Scientists," citing their listener numbers. This request is indicative of Kyle's intent to connect with the public and promote the government's initiatives surrounding technological innovation.

During a previous interview, Kyle described his frequent use of ChatGPT, stating, "ChatGPT is fantastically good," and noted that it helps him gain a deeper understanding of various topics, particularly innovations. This was echoed in his conversation with the AI, where he sought definitions of complex terms such as "quantum" and "digital inclusion." Critics have pointed out the irony in a minister responsible for overseeing digital inclusion resorting to asking a chatbot for clarification on the term.

The discussions about AI in a governmental context coincided with remarks made by Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer. In a speech in Hull, Starmer asserted that AI could significantly enhance governmental operations and economic growth, suggesting it offers a unique chance to improve living standards. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has echoed similar sentiments, suggesting that AI could unlock £45 billion in efficiency savings by streamlining civil service work.

In response to Kyle’s question about the barriers to AI adoption within SMEs, ChatGPT outlined several factors, including “limited awareness and understanding,” as well as “regulatory and ethical concerns.” The chatbot also indicated a lack of institutional support and limited access to funding as additional deterrents. This commentary reflects ongoing concerns in the business community regarding the integration of AI technologies and the challenges that SMEs face in navigating the regulatory landscape.

Criticism has been levelled at Kyle for relying on an AI model for insights on such significant matters. Observers have noted that the answers provided were not particularly enlightening and could have been easily found through existing governmental knowledge or simple online searches. The minimal interaction he had with ChatGPT during a time when he has been vocal about advocating for AI’s transformative potential has raised questions about the depth of understanding within the government regarding the technology’s future applications.

As the UK government continues to advocate for the integration of AI technologies, the effectiveness of such measures in driving innovation and efficiency remains to be seen. The department has been approached for further comment regarding these developments.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.cityam.com/tech-secretary-peter-kyle-asks-chatgpt-about-uk-businesses-ai-and-podcasts/> - This article corroborates Peter Kyle's use of ChatGPT for policy advice, including questions about podcast appearances and AI adoption among SMEs. It also highlights Kyle's positive view of ChatGPT as a tool for understanding complex topics.
* <https://www.ccn.com/news/technology/peter-kyle-uk-science-minister-chatgpt-policy-guidance/> - This source supports the claim that Peter Kyle used ChatGPT to explore policy issues, including the slow adoption of AI by small businesses and recommendations for podcast appearances.
* <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/politics/peter-kyle-ai-chatgpt-science-technology-b2715020.html> - This article provides details about Peter Kyle's inquiries to ChatGPT, including his request for podcast suggestions and his interest in understanding AI adoption challenges among SMEs.
* <https://www.newscientist.com/> - New Scientist is mentioned as the source of the Freedom of Information request that revealed Peter Kyle's interactions with ChatGPT, highlighting his use of the AI tool for policy insights.
* <https://www.politicshome.com/> - PoliticsHome is referenced as a platform where Peter Kyle discussed his use of ChatGPT to gain insights into innovations and their broader context.
* <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/> - The Times is mentioned as a source where Peter Kyle previously discussed the potential of AI to serve as a tutor for complex topics, aligning with his use of ChatGPT for similar purposes.