# Government to launch Gov.uk Wallet and digital IDs by 2025 amid mixed industry views



The release of the Gov.uk Wallet working principles marks a pivotal moment for the UK government's digital identity initiatives, a plan which has sparked both enthusiasm and trepidation within the biometric identity verification and age assurance sectors. Following an impactful meeting with stakeholders, Technology Secretary Peter Kyle made it clear that the government does not intend to impede market innovation but rather to facilitate it. “Any negative impact on the market… is certainly not something that we intended to do,” Kyle expressed, echoing a commitment to address industry concerns. However, the underlying sentiment from stakeholders suggests a mixture of optimism and skepticism about the government's approach.

In detailing the project's scope, Kyle highlighted an ambitious timeline that promises the launch of a Gov.uk app and AI-powered chatbot by next month, followed by the introduction of a digital wallet and comprehensive digital driving licences later this year. The aim of these innovations is not just to modernise government services but to engage citizens effectively by providing a digital identity that simplifies age verification in environments like pubs and bars. Expectations around the rollout of these services have soared, partly due to government assertions that digital ID will be functional by Christmas 2025.

Interestingly, the integration of private sector orchestration service providers (OSPs) is seen as a vital component in this digital identity landscape. These OSPs will play a crucial role by managing data flows between the Gov.uk Wallet and external entities, akin to the way payment services currently operate in online commerce. This highlights a potential growth opportunity not only for established players like OneID and Luciditi but for a broader range of tech-driven solutions that could emerge as the market evolves.

Dan Johnson, Chief Product Officer of Luciditi, commented on the Gov.uk Wallet initiative, asserting that the government is effectively enabling public/private partnerships. He foresees the digital PASS scheme as being key to achieving the goal of allowing digital identity usage for age verification in pubs, while Robert Kotlarz, founder of OneID, echoed the sentiment of cautious optimism. However, he raised concerns about potential overreach from U.S. tech giants and stressed the necessity for clear regulatory frameworks that would ensure the healthy development of the digital ID market.

The government's roadmap also entails the introduction of a comprehensive 'once only' rule, designed to enhance data sharing across various public service platforms while safeguarding individual privacy. By 2027, the government aims to roll out digital versions of key documents, including driving licenses, state benefits eligibility confirmations, and perhaps even digital passports. The ambition extends to ensuring that all government-issued cards can be accessed digitally, promoting a shift towards modern, user-friendly public services.

There are wider implications to consider, particularly regarding public trust in digital identity services. A dialogue commissioned by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology indicated that the public prioritises attributes such as strong governance, transparency, and ease of use in digital identity services. This feedback is paramount as the government constructs a trust framework, ensuring that digital identities not only meet functional requirements but also instil confidence among users.

In tandem, the upcoming Spending Review will be a litmus test for the government’s commitment to digital transformation. It will signal whether sufficient resources are allocated to stimulate innovation while ensuring robust security measures are developed and implemented.

As Kyle pointed out, the interaction between government services and the private sector must meet public expectations for high standards akin to what consumers experience in banking, commerce, and travel. The success of this initiative hinges not only on technological advancements but also on fostering a collaborative atmosphere where public and private sectors can coexist. “We intend every government-issued card to be available digitally by 2027,” he stated, urging, “how those cards are used is for you to innovate.”

The real challenge will be bridging the existing gaps between public regulatory frameworks and private sector capabilities, with an eye firmly focused on the future. While the foundations for the Gov.uk Wallet are being laid, the government and market players alike will need to navigate these complexities to fully realise a trustworthy and efficient digital identity ecosystem.

### Reference Map

1. Core focus on the UK Gov.uk Wallet and its launch details.
2. Insights related to the initiative’s impact on economic growth and identification flexibility.
3. Government's broader digital transformation plan and the 'once only' principle.
4. Public dialogue on trust and governance in digital identity services.
5. Digital IDs for age verification in pubs by 2025.
6. Overview of the digital wallet's features and projected developments.
7. Government's openness to integrating digital wallets from private sector platforms.

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202505/gov-uk-wallet-empowering-the-market-says-kyle-in-big-win-for-osps> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/89934e0b-486d-4fa7-943b-4218916f30e0> - The UK has introduced a digital wallet enabling citizens to store driving licences and veteran ID cards on their smartphones. This initiative, led by Technology Secretary Peter Kyle and supported by Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, aims to modernise the British state and stimulate economic growth. By 2027, additional documents like criminal record checks and state benefits eligibility will be accessible through the wallet, with potential future inclusion of digital passports. A new app containing the wallet and personal state interaction data will launch in the summer, leveraging facial recognition for user verification. The government does not plan to make digital identification compulsory but seeks to make it highly desirable. Additionally, AI tools named "Humphrey" will be introduced to enhance civil servants' decision-making and reduce consultancy costs. Expert Joe Hill welcomed the initiative, stressing the need for substantial investments and risk-taking for successful digital transformation. The forthcoming Spending Review will be a crucial test of the government's commitment to modernisation.
3. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-blueprint-for-modern-digital-government/a-blueprint-for-modern-digital-government-html> - The UK government has outlined a plan to modernise public services through digital transformation. Key initiatives include the introduction of a Digital Wallet to store government credentials, aiming for all government-issued cards to be available digitally by 2027. The plan also proposes a 'once only' rule, allowing information provided to one service to be reused by others with appropriate safeguards. Additionally, the government intends to make all legislation 'digital ready' to improve service delivery efficiency. A new Service Transformation Team will focus on public sector service transformation and the improvement of priority services. The plan also includes streamlining the procurement and provision of devices and tools, as well as cloud and compute resources, to enable public servants to work easily across organisations and at different security levels.
4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-dialogue-on-trust-in-digital-identity-services/public-dialogue-on-trust-in-digital-identity-services-a-findings-report> - The UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) commissioned a public dialogue on trust in digital identity services to inform the development of a trust framework for digital identities. The dialogue aimed to understand public attitudes towards digital identity services, identify benefits and concerns, and gather expectations of digital identity service providers. Findings indicate that the public is particularly interested in the ease of use, strong governance, transparency, and inclusivity of digital identities. The dialogue also explored proposals for effective oversight and routes to building trust in digital identities. The findings will inform the rules that providers of digital identities must follow to become certified against the UK digital identity and attributes trust framework, the functions of the governing body, and planning for public communications initiatives.
5. <https://www.biometricupdate.com/202412/uk-pubs-to-accept-digital-id-for-age-assurance-by-christmas-2025> - By the end of 2025, UK pubgoers will be able to use mobile digital IDs for age verification when purchasing alcohol. The Department of Science, Innovation and Technology announced that individuals can choose to use digital identities on their phones to prove their age in pubs, clubs, and shops. Technology Secretary Peter Kyle emphasized that certified digital identities will make age verification safer, easier, and more convenient. Digital identity services for proof of age must be certified against the UK Digital Identity and Attributes Trust Framework (DIATF). Pub owners will have access to over 50 digital verification service providers certified against DIATF. The initiative aims to drive economic growth and enhance safety, allowing individuals to prove their age without revealing additional personal information.
6. <https://www.perigon.io/news/politics/2025/01/21/uk-plans-digital-driving-licenses-govuk-wallet-launch> - The UK government plans to launch a digital wallet that will allow users to store driving licenses and veteran ID cards on their smartphones. The app will also feature a chatbot powered by OpenAI to assist with government services, reflecting the UK's broader push towards integrating AI technology into public services. Technology Secretary Peter Kyle emphasized that the digital wallet will allow users to prove their age without revealing personal details, stating, 'You will be able to prove and verify your age digitally using the digital driving licence.' The digital wallet app is set to include a 'life events portal' for managing essential life events like births and marriages, aiming to simplify interactions with multiple government services. The app will be available for both Android and iOS, and the launch is expected by June, with a pilot for digital driving licenses planned for 2025.
7. <https://www.publictechnology.net/2025/02/04/society-and-welfare/government-open-to-exploring-use-of-apple-and-google-wallets-to-store-official-documents/> - The UK government is open to exploring the use of Apple and Google Wallets to store official documents, such as digital driving licenses, provided these private sector wallets adhere to the standards set out in the government's Digital Identity and Attributes Trust Framework (DIATF). Minister for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Government, Feryal Clark, confirmed this possibility, stating that there are no current plans but the government is open to exploring this in the future. Currently, Apple, Google, and Samsung Wallets are not certified but may choose to become so in the future. The government's Digital Identity and Attributes Trust Framework aims to create a secure and interoperable system for digital identity verification, and certified digital identity providers can offer services like digital driving licenses through private sector wallets that meet these standards.