

United Kingdom

1. Industrial Strategy (including objectives/goals)

Invest 2035: The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy launched in 2024 is the UK's main industrial policy.¹ The ten-year plan adopts a sector led approach to development. Eight growth-driving sectors have been identified namely:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Clean energy industries
- Creative industries
- Defence
- Digital and technologies
- Financial services
- Life sciences
- Professional and business services

During the 2024 King's Speech, King Charles announced that the UK will develop a new industrial strategy, harness the power of artificial intelligence and establish an Industrial Strategy Council.² Brexit and Covid-19 have contributed to the reformulation of the UK's industrial policy.³

2. Digital (Development) Strategy

- The UK's most recent digital strategy was published in 2022. The Digital Development Strategy 2024-2030 is a Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) initiative published prior to the change of government in July 2024.
- In 2017, the UK Digital Strategy was released. It aims to build a world-leading digital economy through seven strands.⁴ Key priorities are boosting digital competition and shaping how the UK governs tech companies. The 2022 UK Digital Strategy is an update to the 2017 strategy.⁵
- The revised strategy highlights the following areas of priority:

¹UK Government, *Invest 2035: The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy* (2024) <<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6711176c386bf0964853d747/industrial-strategy-green-paper.pdf>> accessed 14 January 2025.

² The King's Speech 2024, Oral statement to Parliament (17 July 2024) <<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-kings-speech-2024>> accessed 14 January 2025.

³ Philip McCann et al, 'Rebalancing UK Regional and Industrial Policy Post-Brexit and Post-Covid-19: Lessons Learned and Priorities for the Future' (2021) 57 *Regional Studies* 1113.

⁴ UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport and Department for Science, Innovation and Technology., *2017 UK Digital Strategy* (2017) <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-digital-strategy/uk-digital-strategy>> accessed 14 January 2025.

⁵ UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, *2022 UK Digital Strategy* <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-digital-strategy/uk-digital-strategy>> accessed 14 January 2025.

- Digital foundations: rolling out world-class digital infrastructure nationwide
- Ideas and intellectual property: Substantial and growing government investment in research and development
- Skills and talent: Building a tech-savvy nation
- Financing digital growth: offering a range of financial incentives to drive growth
- Keeping the UK safe and secure online
- Fuelling a new era of startups and scaleups
- Unleashing the transformational power of tech and AI
- Levelling up digital prosperity across the UK: enabling better access to the benefits of digital technologies across the UK
- Enhancing the UK's place in the world
- The White Paper entitled 'Policy Paper on 'A pro-innovation approach to AI Regulation' 2023 highlights a goal for the UK to become a science and technology superpower by 2030. It also highlights essential characteristics around which the UK's regulation with regards to AI is built namely: innovation, proportionality, trustworthiness and adaptability, clarity and collaboration. The framework further elaborates that the UK's approach is to regulate the use of technology not the technology itself. The framework highlights five values-focused cross-sectoral principles:
 - Safety, security and robustness
 - Appropriate transparency and explainability
 - Fairness
 - Accountability and governance
 - Contestability and redress

3. Main Constitutional Provisions

The UK does not have a codified constitution.

4. Main Regulatory Provisions and Policy Developments

- AI Regulation White Paper 'A Pro-innovation Approach to AI regulation'⁶
- Digital Markets, Competition, and Consumers Act (2024)
- Data Protection Act 2018 – A Data Protection and Digital Information Bill is currently at Committee Stage in the UK.
- Consumer Rights Act 2015

⁶ UK Department of Science, Innovation and Technology, *A Pro-innovation Approach to AI Regulation* <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-regulation-a-pro-innovation-approach/white-paper>>> accessed 14 January 2025.

- Competition Act 1998

5. *(Regional) economic treaties to which the state is a signatory*

- EU - United Kingdom
- United Kingdom - CARIFORUM States
- United Kingdom - Central America
- United Kingdom - Colombia, Ecuador and Peru
- United Kingdom - Eastern and Southern Africa States
- United Kingdom - Pacific States
- United Kingdom - SACU and Mozambique

6. *Plurilaterals*

- Information Technology Agreement
- WTO Joint Statement Initiative on E-commerce

7. *Proceedings initiated against the state, or by it, before international fora for the adoption/implementation of industrial policy measures (e.g., before WTO panels, the WTO's AB)*

- WTO - As a member State of the European Union until 31 January 2020, the United Kingdom was also involved in the dispute settlement cases of the EC/EU.
- In 2021 EU brought infringement proceedings against the UK in relation to non-compliance with significant parts of the Protocol on Ireland / Northern Ireland.
- In 2024 the European Union requested consultations with the United Kingdom under the dispute settlement mechanism of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) regarding the United Kingdom's decision to prohibit the fishing of Sandeel.

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