



BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGIES

All-Party Parliamentary Group

Minutes from the Blockchain Technologies All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) Roundtable

Date: Tuesday, 3 June 2025, 2:30 PM.

Venue: Room B, **Houses of Parliament**, Westminster, London

APPG Officers:

Matt Vickers MP, Lord McNicol of West Kilbride, John Lamont MP, Lord Goddard of Stockport

Attendees:

Parliamentarians

- Matt Vickers MP
- Lord Gilbert of Panteg
- Baroness Dr Swinburne
- Rt Hon Viscount Camrose

APPG Secretariat (The British Blockchain Association):

Prof Dr Naseem Naqvi MBE (Head of APPG Secretariat)

Racheal Muldoon (BBA Advisory Board)

Lewis Rogers (BBA Advisory Board)

Deborah Cleary (BBA Advisory Board)

Joey Garcia (BBA Advisory Board)

Delegates include representatives from industry, legal, academia and civil society.

Apologies:

Lauren Edwards MP

Baroness Vere of Norbiton

Lord Taylor of Warwick

Lord Goddard of Stockport

Opening Remarks – Matt Vickers MP (Chair, APPG)

Reaffirmed APPG's mission to:

- Keep parliamentarians informed and engaged in blockchain developments.
- Translate innovation into actionable policy.
- Listen to those building real-world solutions and driving blockchain and crypto adoption.
- Support the advancement of UK Blockchain Roadmap Vision 2030, published in 2021.
- Champion digital trust, responsible innovation, and cross-sector collaboration.
- Confirmed the formation of an APPG Advisory Board and Working Groups.
- Help advance smarter, evidence-led policies for Crypto and Blockchain.
- Thanked the Secretariat (The BBA) for their leadership and commitment to Blockchain.



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Remarks from the APPG Secretariat – Prof Dr. Naseem Naqvi MBE

(President, British Blockchain Association)

- Emphasised the need for evidence-based, politically supported, academically validated, industry-driven, and economically viable blockchain and digital asset policy.
- Advocated the Quadruple Helix Innovation model, encouraging collaboration between academia, industry, government, and the public sector, citing 70–80% increase in innovation success when all four sectors cooperate to scale innovative technologies.
- Urged industry to communicate clearly and accessibly to policymakers, avoiding excessive technical jargon, to improve public policy understanding and responsiveness.

UK Blockchain Landscape – Prof. Nikhil Vadgama

(Deputy Director, UK Centre for Blockchain Technologies UK CBT)

Shared findings from UK CBT mapping:

- 1,169 blockchain companies identified in the UK. 802 companies are actively operating.
- Key research hubs: UCL, Oxford, and Birmingham, and others.

Key Challenges Identified - Regulatory Uncertainty

- The UK lacks a coherent regulatory framework, slowing down innovation.
- HM Treasury initiatives (sandbox, crypto asset framework) are too slow compared to the EU's MiCA regulation.

Case examples:

- SongBits: Stalled for a year due to regulatory ambiguity.
- a16z: Closed UK office citing lack of regulatory clarity.

Access to Banking & Capital

- Around 50% of Web3 startups in the UK face denial of basic banking services, despite FCA registration.
- Banks adopt a de-risking stance, impeding legitimate innovation.

Recommendations:

- Treasury/FCA to issue risk-based guidance.
- Expand the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) to include blockchain startups.
- Explore a Web3 Innovation Fund.

Talent Development & National Infrastructure

- Absence of a unified national strategy for blockchain skills and infrastructure.

Proposed:

- National Blockchain Skills Initiative (postgrad, vocational).
- Government-backed demonstrators (identity, token registries).
- Blockchain Enterprise Zones and a specialist talent visa.
- Emphasised that business confidence hinges on visible, public-sector-led pilot projects.



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Emmanuel Young (Community & Partnerships, World Mobile)

- Described World Mobile's mission: to decentralise telecom infrastructure through blockchain.
- Operations span Pakistan, Zanzibar, and the US, with over 2 million daily users.
- Noted the UK's restrictive banking environment: Despite receiving £2M in UK government grants and employing over 60 staff, World Mobile and partners still face banking challenges.
- Shared his views on Reform's digital asset strategy and banking non-discrimination bill.
- Highlighted difficulty in sourcing blockchain developers, linking to visa policy constraints.
- Called for renewed UK leadership, noting its historic role in internet and technology development.

Blockchain for AI – Rachael Muldoon (Advisor, British Blockchain Association)

Presented:

- AI and Data Governance Challenges
- AI models are trained on large, historical datasets, often including unconsented data (e.g., copyrighted content, social media posts).
- Identified core issues: Transparency, Accountability, Explain-ability (Collectively, the "black box problem")
- Cited Getty Images v. Stability AI as an example of legal exposure.
- Discussed Blockchain as a Trust Infrastructure - Advocated for blockchain-backed data provenance to audit AI systems.
- Proposed a four-part framework:

National AI Data Provenance Registry

Publicly funded pilots in high-risk sectors (e.g., healthcare)

Collaborative regulatory guidance

Incentivised standards for interoperability

- Cited a 2023 High Court case where she successfully served court papers via blockchain NFT airdrop.
- Urged the UK to become a global regulatory leader in AI and blockchain integration.

Social Media Regulation, Creator Economy, and Blockchain:

Lord Gilbert of Panteg, House of Lords

- Critiqued profit-driven social media models and the proliferation of fraudulent content (estimated at 60%+).
- Argued for platforms to assume moral and legal responsibilities akin to banks.

Proposals:

- Introduce KYC requirements for all social media users.
- Impose "bank-level obligations" on platforms.
- Implement LinkedIn-style identity verification.
- Develop a regulatory framework targeting dominant platform business models.



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Blockchain & Economic Growth – Rt Hon. Viscount Camrose, House of Lords

- Linked blockchain adoption with long-term economic growth and public trust.
- Argued for a mainstream blockchain application (e.g., CVs, registries) to drive mass adoption.
- Reiterated the urgency of seizing the UK's global leadership opportunity.

Regulation & Policy – Baroness Dr. Nicola Swinburne, House of Lords

- Expressed frustration over the slow pace of national regulation.
- Noted continuity in the digital assets bill over three years—placing responsibility on the FCA to act.

Progress Highlighted:

- UK Digital Sandbox praised as a global-first tool enabling real innovation (vs EU's fragmented MiCA regime).
- Recounted personal difficulties opening a business bank account—even as a former minister.

Opportunities:

- Urged transformation of the UK Land Registry using blockchain (as Dubai has done).
- Cautioned that UK-based blockchain clients are registering in UAE free zones, tokenizing UK assets abroad.
- Argued blockchain is key to EU AI Act compliance (auditability and traceability).
- Emphasised smart contracts for IP protection, royalties, and creative sector automation.

Next Steps:

- Establish APPG Working Groups (facilitated by Secretariat).
- Formalise APPG Advisory Board.
- Advance UK National Blockchain Roadmap, Vision 2030.
- Deepen engagement with HM Treasury, FCA, DBT, DSIT, HM Land Registry and other relevant institutions to align on cross-sector blockchain and crypto-asset policy and regulation.
- Explore Tokenisation initiatives and its tangible benefits for the UK's digital economy.
- Promote evidence-led Crypto and Blockchain adoption.
- Continue to document real-world barriers and promote public sector-led pilot projects.
- Schedule next Roundtable post summer recess.

(The BBA would like to thank the UK Centre for Blockchain Technologies and World Mobile for sponsoring this Roundtable.)



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EVIDENCE. POLICY. IMPACT.



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BLOCKCHAIN & DIGITAL ASSETS ROUNDTABLE

3 June 2025 | Houses of Parliament

APPG OFFICERS, MEMBERS & EVIDENCE GIVERS



Rt. Hon. Viscount Camrose
(Member)



Lord Goddard of Stockport
(Vice Chair)



Matt Vickers MP
(Chair)



Rt Hon The Lord Triesman
(Member)



Baroness Dr Swinburne
(Member)



Prof Dr Naseem Naqvi MBE
(APPG Secretariat)



Racheal Muldoon
The BBA



Emmanuel Young
World Mobile



Prof Nikhil Vadgama
UK CBT



Lord Gilbert of Panteg
(Member)



John Lamont MP
(Vice Chair)

2:30 - 2:35 PM
Welcome Remarks from the APPG Chair **Matt Vickers MP**

2:35 - 2:50 PM
Updates from APPG Secretariat, **Prof Dr Naseem Naqvi MBE**

2:50 - 3:10 PM
Evidence Givers

Blockchain and Tokenisation for the UK's Digital Economy
(Dr Nikhil Vadgama, UK CBT)

Telecommunication and Mobile Networks on the Blockchain
(Emmanuel Young, World Mobile)

Why AI needs Blockchain
(Racheal Muldoon, Advisory Board, The BBA)

3:10 PM - 3:20 PM
APPG Advisory Board Updates
Launch of APPG Working Groups

3:20 PM - 3:50 PM
Updates from APPG Officers and Members / Q&A for Evidence-Givers

3:50 - 4:00 PM
Agenda for future events and photos



APPG Officers: Matt Vickers MP, Rt. Hon. Lord McNicol of West Kilbride, The Lord Goddard of Stockport, John Lamont MP
APPG Secretariat: The British Blockchain Association
<https://britishblockchainassociation.org/appg>

ROUNDTABLE SPONSORS:

