

Rt. Hon Andy Burnham,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister. You have inherited an economy that has been quietly wired to serve a handful of dominant US-based technology firms. You also have the rare opportunity to tap into the public mood by curbing their excessive power over the economy and our lives.

A critical break with the UK's current relationship with dominant Big Tech and AI monopolies is core to a successful premiership. The abuse of structural and market power of a small number of Big Tech companies is a root cause of many of the problems the UK public face: huge potential losses in tax receipts because of firms avoiding paying their fair share in taxes, an economy that feels increasingly out of reach for most, the extraction of value hindering real growth and innovation, and meaningful climate action being undermined. Our call to you is not for an anti-tech response, but an anti-monopoly one. Such a position would help unlock the British innovation and growth that these monopolies are currently suppressing.

In light of this, we urge your leadership to bring about the following actions:

- I. **Support the use of robust enforcement powers at your disposal:** We welcome early signs that the competition regulator should use its powers to tackle concentrated corporate power in digital markets. Alongside the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA)'s own enforcement powers, the Digital Markets, Competition and Consumers Act (DMCCA) gives the UK one of the most sophisticated competition toolkits in the world, passed with overwhelming cross-party support. Parliament recognised the harms of monopoly domination of the UK's digital economy, including limits on consumer choice, raising barriers for businesses, and stifling innovation. Yet, the tenor of the Government's direction to the CMA has been that the UK must be open to (big) business. The CMA's own cloud market investigation found that Microsoft and Amazon Web Services together control more than 3/4 of the UK market, yet [failed to act meaningfully](#). A new steer should encourage CMA independence to use its powers to address anti-competitive market concentration and protect consumer interests.
- II. **End dependency on tech giants:** Government and public digital infrastructure, including critical infrastructure systems running the NHS and defence, are hard-wired to serve foreign-owned and controlled firms – primarily US-based. This creates economic dependency, security risk, and threats to our democracy. The government's [Chronic Risk Analysis](#) has global tech firms' dominance listed as a "chronic risk" to the country. The full analysis [should](#) be published. The longer we allow this dominance to continue, the process of extracting short-term returns for shareholders while passing damaging costs to society and planet endures. AI data centres are the latest and most vivid expression of that – being built and approved without a national strategy grounded in environmental limits, while the government's own [National Policy Statement](#) on this was due in February and still hasn't appeared. As such:
 - a. Imposing binding conditions on AI data centres in line with UK climate commitments is paramount. These sites should be powered with renewables

24/7, prohibited to use on-site gas generators to meet demand and should not be allowed out-compete housing and other priority sectors for water or renewable energy

- b. To break harmful dependency on hyperscalers, we urge you to adopt a Tech Sovereignty Strategy which incentivises fair competition, investment in diverse and domestic tech companies, and supports an enabling environment based on reducing structural dependencies.

III. Use public procurement as an industrial-strategy tool. Government has one of the most direct levers over Big Tech dependency and has largely left it unused: what it chooses to buy. [Reports](#) that a Burnham government might move Palantir out of the NHS point in the right direction, and reflect a wider trend happening across Europe where countries are course-correcting. Procurement decisions should build UK, sustainable, diverse, open alternatives into public contracts as standard, not leave the door open to the same dominant firms by default. You can rectify this immediately by cutting the [NHS Federated Data Platform](#) (FDP) deal with Palantir.

You have duly spoken about bringing "good growth in every postcode." We share that ambition, however a different kind of growth cannot take root while a handful of Big Tech monopolies sit astride the digital economy, extracting value from our communities, returning it to shareholders while harming the environment. Fair competition is therefore not just beneficial to consumers, but one of the essential drivers of long-term growth and the improvement of living-standards.

We would welcome the chance to discuss these points further, and to support you in turning it into policy.

Yours sincerely,

Organisations

Balanced Economy Project
ARTICLE 19
Check My Ads
Clean Up the Internet
Common Wealth
Fair Vote UK
Future of Technology Institute (FOTI)
Global Action Plan
Global Justice
NowGood Law Project
Just Treatment
Movement for an Open Web
New School of Anthropocene
Newmast Foundation
Open Rights Group
People vs Big Tech
The New Contract

Individuals

Adele Zeynep Walton, Author and Online
Safety Campaigner



