# UK and Meta back open-source AI drive for public services



Meta and the UK Government have announced a joint initiative to advance artificial intelligence in the public sector, launching a £1 million Open Source AI Fellowship in partnership with the Alan Turing Institute. Set to begin in January 2026, the 12-month programme will embed AI specialists within government departments to develop tools designed to improve public services and support national security.

Described as a step towards becoming an “AI maker not an AI taker,” the programme will use open-source models, including Meta’s Llama series, ensuring government ownership of all outputs. This approach protects sensitive data, avoids vendor lock-in, and allows AI tools to be tailored to specific public sector needs. “This is the best of AI in action—open, practical, and built for public good,” said Peter Kyle, Technology Secretary. He emphasised the government’s focus on delivery and its ambition to build tangible systems that improve services and operations.

Dr Jean Innes, CEO of the Alan Turing Institute, called the fellowship a novel way to match AI expertise with real-world public challenges. Fellows will work on projects such as real-time language translation for national security and using planning data to speed up home building approvals. The programme aims to unlock up to £45 billion in public sector productivity.

The fellowship builds on existing tools like ‘Humphrey’, an AI assistant helping civil servants summarise documents, take meeting notes and compile consultations. Another example is ‘Caddy’, developed with Citizens Advice, which has halved call response times and doubled advisor confidence. Caddy has since been open-sourced for wider use in services like debt advice and legal support.

Participants will join the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology’s Incubator for AI—the team behind Humphrey—to help turn experimental ideas into operational solutions. The fellowship complements the government’s AI Knowledge Hub, which shares case studies, tools and a Prompt Library to help teams scale responsible AI use.

Joel Kaplan, Meta’s Chief Global Affairs Officer, said the programme reflects a shared commitment to open, secure and sovereign AI development. By bringing together private innovation and public service goals, the fellowship offers a potential model for how open-source AI can address complex challenges while upholding public trust.

Applications will open soon, inviting AI experts keen to contribute to the next phase of public sector transformation. Through this initiative, the UK is setting a strong example in the responsible use of AI to modernise government and improve the lives of its citizens.

Created by [Amplify](https://www.hbmadvisory.com/amplify): AI-augmented, human-curated content.

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.developer-tech.com/news/meta-and-uk-government-launch-open-source-ai-fellowship/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-best-ai-engineers-can-apply-now-to-build-tech-for-public-services-in-1-million-fellowship> - The UK government, supported by a $1 million grant from Meta to the Alan Turing Institute, is launching a 12-month Open-Source AI Fellowship. This initiative aims to integrate top AI experts into government departments to develop open-source AI tools that enhance public services, boost productivity, and support national security. Fellows will work on projects such as language translation for national security and using construction planning data to expedite housing approvals. The programme begins in January 2026, with applications opening shortly.
3. <https://about.fb.com/news/2025/07/meta-backs-1-million-initiative-to-get-uks-best-ai-talent-to-build-tech-for-public-services/> - Meta is funding a $1 million initiative to bring the UK's leading AI talent into government through the Open-Source AI Fellowship. Managed by the Alan Turing Institute, this programme will place AI experts in various government departments to develop open-source AI tools for public services. Potential projects include language translation for national security and using construction planning data to accelerate housing approvals. The fellowship aims to establish the UK as an 'AI maker' by leveraging open-source AI models like Meta's Llama.
4. <https://www.itpro.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/the-uk-government-is-working-with-meta-to-create-an-ai-engineering-dream-team-to-drive-public-sector-adoption> - The UK government, in collaboration with Meta and the Alan Turing Institute, is launching a $1 million AI initiative called the Open-Source AI Fellowship starting in January 2026. This programme will recruit engineers and developers for a 12-month assignment to create AI tools to enhance public sector services. The focus will be on developing practical, open-source AI solutions, such as language translation tools and housing development accelerators, using Meta's Llama 3.5 models. Participants will also support and expand tools like 'Humphrey,' an AI suite used by civil servants, and projects like Caddy, an AI customer service assistant already improving support services at Citizen's Advice centres.
5. <https://www.euronews.com/next/2025/07/11/meta-to-pay-1-million-to-bolster-uk-governments-ai-workforce> - Meta is providing a $1 million grant to the UK government to develop new AI technologies through the Open-Source AI Fellowship. This programme will place AI experts in government departments for a year to build AI tools for high-security use cases, such as language translation for national security and using construction data to speed up housing approvals. Fellows will also work on expanding 'Humphrey,' an AI suite that assists civil servants by summarising documents and taking notes. The initiative aims to establish the UK as an 'AI maker' by leveraging open-source AI models like Meta's Llama.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/government-to-announce-new-scheme-as-it-ramps-up-ai-adoption-with-backing-from-facebook-owner-meta-13395191> - The UK government is accelerating its adoption of AI with a $1 million scheme to hire up to 10 AI experts, backed by Meta. The initiative aims to develop AI tools for high-security use cases, such as translating classified documents and speeding up planning applications. The funding, provided through the Alan Turing Institute, will support the Open-Source AI Fellowship, which is set to begin in January 2026. Technology Secretary Peter Kyle emphasised the programme's focus on delivering practical AI solutions for the public good.
7. <https://completeaitraining.com/news/meta-and-uk-government-launch-1-million-open-source-ai/> - Meta and the UK government have launched a £1 million Open Source AI Fellowship to integrate top AI experts into government departments. The initiative aims to develop open-source AI tools that enhance public services, boost productivity, and support national security. Fellows will work on projects such as language translation for national security and using construction planning data to expedite housing approvals. The programme begins in January 2026, with applications opening shortly. Technology Secretary Peter Kyle highlighted the fellowship as a practical application of AI for the public good.