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Governance Research Brief · Edition 11 · 13 November 2026

EDITION IN BRIEF

What government must be able to change

A ministry signs a cloud contract. An assembly receives a fiscal risk report. A resident follows advice from a government chatbot. In each case, the first decision matters. So does what happens when the price rises, the risk materialises or the advice is wrong.

Technology procurement

The Institute for Public Policy Research proposes pooling technology capabilities with other countries to reduce Britain's reliance on overseas suppliers.

AI oversight

In the Internet Governance Forum network's 13 selected cases, four drew on independent outcome measurement and one on direct accounts from affected people.

Legislative scrutiny

Most legislatures surveyed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development receive fiscal risk information; a minority debate it.

Government communication

In a 2025 survey by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 46% of responding institutions were exploring artificial intelligence for government communication.

The cost of unresolved problems

A Canadian study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates CAD 57.5 billion in social costs across 12 categories of justice problems.

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THE GOVERNING QUESTION

What a public body can still change

The first two readings suggest that a public body has to buy itself room to act. A replacement supplier cannot help if the service cannot move, and an oversight body cannot learn whether a rule worked if it only receives evidence that a procedure was followed. The communication report takes that problem into the life of a resident: a corrected government page may still leave earlier advice circulating through search or a chatbot.

How long would it take to switch?

Before a public body renews a critical digital service, what has it actually tested about exporting records, replacing the supplier and continuing to serve people during the change?

When can scrutiny still change the decision?

Will members see the risks while they can still amend the allocation? If the service gives wrong advice, who can correct it and contact people who acted on it?

Who pays when the arrangement fails?

If the public body spends less, what happens to household travel, missed work, waiting time and unresolved cases? Which of those costs will appear in the appraisal?

> **Scope of the evidence**
>
> The findings range from provisional case evidence and surveys to modelled costs. They do not establish a common measured effect.

Read the latest edition and source list