



YOTI GUARDIAN COUNCIL MEETING External Minutes Q3 2023

Attendance: See table at end

Location: Google Meet

Date: 02/10/2023 - 15.00 - 17.00

Recorder: Ken Banks

Agenda

- Approve draft external minutes from last meeting and review progress
- Funding Update
- Lloyds Update
- R&D Update on improved external bias
- Update on Guardian recruitment
- Ethics Committee Updates
- Any other business

<p>Welcome 15.00 - 15.15</p>	<p>We opened the meeting, and welcomed everyone. After a Guardian news update the external version of the minutes from the last Guardians Council Meeting were approved.</p>
<p>Update on Actions from Past Meetings 15.15 - 15.40</p>	<p>A number of actions from past meetings remain in motion, and updates were provided.</p> <p>Yoti staff took everyone through actions and progress with our assistance for content moderation companies, reminding everyone that its primary purpose was to make sure that companies we work with can support staff to make better decisions, when it comes to content moderation. He reported that we're also beginning to engage other stakeholder groups and bodies to support and grow our understanding of this area. Yoti Trust & Safety lead shared a number of moderation examples showing mock screens. Progress and future plans were outlined, including engagement with relevant NGOs and regulatory bodies. The Guardians requested to be kept abreast of progress.</p>
<p>Funding Update 15.40 - 15.45</p>	<p>Yoti CEO provided the Guardians with a brief update on Yoti's progress in terms of funding.</p>
<p>Lloyds Update 15.45 - 16.00</p>	<p>The Yoti lead for this area took the Guardians through the launch of the Lloyds Bank digital ID app and the context within 'Digital ID Connect', alongside Yoti, Post Office and now Lloyds Bank apps.</p> <p>The Guardians questioned whether the use of digital ID is just for consumer accounts or whether it's also being used to verify and identify for other business and government purposes. There was debate as to the evolving UK DIATF (Digital Identity & Attributes Trust Framework), the upcoming DPDI (Data Protection & Digital Information) bill, requirements evolving from Companies House, Land Registry and evolving trust schemes. One Guardian expressed strongly that to be able to verify the identity of an individual and a verified attribute that someone is a director of a certain company would be very valuable for transparency and trust in businesses. Yoti's lead outlined that verifiable credentials could be used to confirm elements such as whether or not someone is a Director, and that recognition is growing around how digital ID might support this type of effort over the coming years.</p>
<p>R&D Update 16.00 - 16.25</p>	<p>The Head of R&D outlined the strong financial investment in the work of the R&D team, and provided the Guardians with an update on improved bias in our facial age estimation (this improvement will also be fed back to regulators and select clients).</p> <p>The Head of R&D described the progress following the investment in R&D in terms of improved accuracy levels for specific demographics; however at a high financial cost to the business.</p>

	<p>The Guardians asked whether it was possible to crowdsource images, or whether we could ask people in the required demographic groups to submit photos. The pros and cons of this were explained.</p> <p>The Head of R&D outlined what had been submitted to the NIST benchmarking in autumn 2023. NIST will undertake their own independent analysis based on grouping people by country on their passport, which should provide useful independent evidence for relying parties and regulators.</p> <p>The team continues to focus on improving inclusion.</p> <p>The Guardians exhorted the team to write about the efforts and work we're doing, and to flag the R&D areas that are challenging, via our site, White Papers, blogs to be as open and transparent as possible..</p>
<p>Update on Guardian Recruitment</p> <p>16.25 - 1640</p>	<p>The convenor of the Guardians Council gave an update on how we're progressing with Guardian recruitment, adding that we're having to rely more on online searches than we hoped due to the lack of nominees from existing Guardians, and a lack of success in getting hold of former Guardian's nominees. They presented a list of around two dozen individuals who had the skills and background identified as being a priority for Guardian recruitment, and it was decided that these would be split into groups of five and each of the Guardians, would undertake deeper dives and provide suitability feedback by the end of October.</p>
<p>Ethics Committee Update</p> <p>16.40 - 16.55</p>	<p>The Ethics Committee recently convened to discuss the issue of whether there should be a formal process for employees to anonymously report potential misuses of our technology by third parties, and how these reports should be investigated, and what outcomes there might be. There was also an instance during a recent Ethics meeting where it was revealed that a member of staff was unhappy doing a piece of work and they were not comfortable with the activity and controls in place at a client.</p> <p>It was proposed that a fuller update on all of these issues will be given at the next Guardians meeting, adding that we need to think a little more about how we handle and manage these cases, and how people can safely report concerns (over and above the internal HR system, HiBob). The Guardians were asked if they knew of any platforms or policies to make all of this easier for people going forward, to please let the team know.</p>
<p>AOB</p> <p>16.55 - 17.00</p>	<p>The Guardians asked about being informed about forthcoming events. The idea of using WhatsApp group or similar to share news was raised, else we revert to email as per existing communications. The Guardians were also interested in learning about events it might be helpful for them to attend, and whether there were opportunities to give interviews.</p>
<p>Close</p> <p>17.00</p>	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>With no other business, the meeting was called to a close at 17.00</p>

Meeting Attendance													
Meeting Dates							Yoti Staff						
Ken Banks	●						Robin Tombs	●					
Gavin Starks	●						Julie Dawson	●					
Seyi Akiwowo	●						Erlend Davidson	●					
Jerry Michalski	●						Omari Rodney	●					
							John Abott	●					

● = in attendance ○ = absent/ apologies ☒ = Not scheduled to attend