**Artificial Intelligence: Ethical Questions**

**Responsible AI**

Responsible AI is a governance system which aims to regulate the applications and outcomes of Artificial Intelligence. Up until recently there was very little to no regulation of AI, this changed with the introduction of GDPR throughout the majority of Europe. However, there are still large parts of the world, including the USA, which are yet to formally introduce legally binding regulation. This means that the implantation and maintenance of a Responsible AI framework falls on companies themselves, resulting in the industry being left to regulate itself for the most part.

**When AI Goes Wrong**

Like anything else, AI is imperfect. This simple fact must be remembered when aiming to deploy AI to carry out complex and potentially controversial tasks. In 2018, members of the US Congress condemned Amazon after its facial recognition software falsely matched 28 congresspeople with mugshots of criminals, with nearly 40% of the matches being people of colour. This isn’t the only case of AI being biased against minorities, another high profile example from Amazon highlighted inherent biases against women, for example, which places onus on technology companies to produce algorithms that are both effective and ethical. Biases like these can have huge impacts on people’s lives, which is why article 22 of the EU’s GDPR regulations specifically states that an individual has the right to a decision which is not solely based on automated processing. The enshrining of this into law is intended as a mitigation factor to these biases. It is also worth considering that algorithms are simply learning from the training data provided, if the data indicates a bias against a certain group of people then the outcomes of the algorithm may be a reflection of broader societal issues.

**How Do We Control AI**

Independent regulation is key to ensuring that AI is used responsibly. History has shown that big companies cannot be relied upon to regulate themselves with any kind of effectiveness long term, it is up to governments to introduce legal frameworks that clearly outline acceptable practises within the field of artificial intelligence and hold them to account by enforcing those laws if and when it is deemed appropriate. How we learn to live with artificial intelligence is one of the biggest questions for society going forward, ultimately it must be the case that AI works for us, not against us.