## Westminster Business Forum policy conference: Next steps for UK start-ups policy

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025

\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*

Agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration



## 9.00 <u>Backing your business - Government's vision for implementation</u>

Blair McDougall MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business and Trade (pre-recorded contribution)

#### 9.10 Priorities for UK start-up policy - driving growth, competition, and enabling innovation

**Anthony Charrie**, Partner and Head, UK&I Government and Public Institutions Practice, Oliver Wyman Ouestions and comments from the floor

#### 9.40 Assessing and implementing the UK's Small Business Strategy

aligning start-up support with local and national growth priorities | how the Industrial Strategy might benefit smaller businesses | streamlining the support network through the Business Growth Service | strategic coordination across government departments, mayoral authorities, and local authorities | building connections with overseas investors and export markets | integrating local growth hubs and university-led ecosystems | policy levers for improving access to finance | next steps for promoting entrepreneurship Guy Ward-Jackson, Senior Science and Technology Policy Analyst, Tony Blair Institute

**Simon Groom**, Co-Founder and CEO, MagnifyB Questions and comments from the floor

#### 10.20 Opportunities for innovation and technology in unlocking start-up growth

**Madush Gupta**, Chair, Centre for Finance, Innovation and Technology Questions and comments from the floor

#### 10.50 Chair's closing remarks

Anthony Charrie, Partner and Head, UK&I Government and Public Institutions Practice, Oliver Wyman

10.55 Break

#### 11.05 Chair's opening remarks

Thomas Howard, Westminster Business Forum

## 11.10 The role of regulation in supporting start-ups and promoting competition

**Jessica Lennard**, Chief Strategy and External Affairs Officer, Competition and Markets Authority Questions and comments from the floor

# 11.35 <u>'Unlocking Public Procurement for Start-Ups: How the Procurement Act 2023 Could Make a Difference'</u>

Professor Aris Matopoulos, Professor, Supply Chain Design, Cranfield University

### 11.45 <u>Tackling barriers to growth - supporting the business journey from start-up to scale-up</u>

addressing regional funding imbalances | tackling underrepresentation in founder communities | leveraging the British Business Bank and National Wealth Fund | rollout of artificial intelligence and digital tools in supporting productivity | early indications from the Business Growth Service | unlocking business skills | role of the Private Intermittent Securities and Capital Exchange System in supporting business growth

lan Merricks, Proposition Lead, VenturePath

Dr Trias Gkikopoulos, Innovation Lead, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, Innovate UK

Katie Gallagher, Managing Director, Manchester Digital

Iliana Pearce, Tech and Innovation Policy Advisor, Federation of Small Businesses

12.05 Questions and comments from the floor

#### 12.30 'Policy priorities for making life easier for start-ups and small firms to access contracts, money, and support'

**Emma Jones**, Small Business Commissioner Questions and comments from the floor

## 12.55 <u>Westminster Business Forum closing remarks</u>

Thomas Howard, Westminster Business Forum