

## **Response to Prime Minister's comments on AI: NHS has a goldmine of images that AI can unearth to diagnose illnesses**

Reacting to Prime Minister Theresa May's comments on Monday, in which she calls for an artificial intelligence industry in healthcare to help tackle late diagnosis of otherwise treatable illnesses, Jane Rendall, managing director of NHS imaging technology partner Sectra UK & Ireland, said:

"The NHS has practically unused archives of millions of diagnostic images that could become one of the most powerful clinical datasets in the world if artificial intelligence is used effectively.

"Our health service has a wealth of imaging data that it can use to start teaching machines how to recognise parts of the human anatomy, and more importantly, how to recognise abnormalities.

"As more and more diagnostic disciplines digitise, imaging collected has huge potential to go from being largely unused storage boxes to goldmines of clinical knowledge.

"Machines can act as a powerful decision support system, but more than that they could be programmed to proactively suggest other conditions that they have been taught to recognise.

"AI cannot replace the human in the diagnostic process, but it can enable automation of mundane tasks to better support radiologists and pathologists, enabling the most urgent studies to be reviewed first and allowing specialist staff to be alerted to the more complex cases that require their attention.

"It is reassuring to see commitment from Theresa May to this crucial area, that could do so much to reduce the ever growing pressure on NHS diagnostic departments."

Jane Rendall, managing director, Sectra UK & Ireland