We support and applaud the government’s G-Cloud programme and the progress it has made to opening up government IT business to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). Microsoft’s Partner ecosystem comprises over 35,000 partner organisation in the UK (and over half a million partners worldwide), employing over 250,000 people in the UK alone. Our partners tell us they are encouraged and excited by the developments the government is making its markets more open and accessible to them. The overwhelming majority of these partners are SME.

A significant proportion of these partners build or develop applications that run on or work with our products and services. The role of our support for open standards across our products, platforms and services is a factor that allows our partners to create interoperable products and services they can then sell to their customers across the UK and further afield – including into the Public Sector.