



**COUNCIL FOR
SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY**

10 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0NB

Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA
'Sent by email only'

28 June 2023

Dear Prime Minister

ASSOCIATION TO HORIZON EUROPE AND PIONEER

We were delighted to meet with you and the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology to discuss your strategic vision for UK science and technology. We were also encouraged to hear that it remains the government's preferred option to associate to Horizon Europe and support the commitment of the Secretary of State to achieve this.

While we welcome the reassurance provided to the UK research and innovation community through the publication of the Pioneer prospectus, and recognise that Horizon Europe will bring substantial costs and trade-offs, we strongly believe that association to Horizon Europe is the best possible outcome to maintain the UK's leadership in science and technology.

EU research and innovation programmes are unique in the scale and scope of the support they provide for multinational cooperation, including in strategic technology areas. The benefits received by UK researchers, innovators and businesses are both financial and non-financial. This includes the value of formal and informal networks, researcher development, access to unique data, and opportunities for innovation and international impact. We believe that the exchange of scientific insights and stimulus that Horizon Europe promotes will be impossible to replicate.

Horizon Europe is a mature, world-leading programme that embeds learning and improvement relative to previous European research and innovation programmes. Pioneer will inevitably take time to create and scale up, which further risks hindering UK researchers and innovators in an accelerating global race for technological advantage.

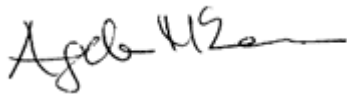
Successful delivery of the Science and Technology Framework also rests on the UK's ability to attract highly diverse, international researchers and innovators to locate in the UK. In the event that association is not possible, government will need to carefully consider how Pioneer will attract and retain international researchers and innovators. In any scenario, the visa process should be further streamlined to bring in international talent.

Association to Horizon Europe will send a strong signal not only to our European partners, but also to researchers and businesses in the UK and around the world, that the UK continues to be a committed international partner in the scientific discoveries and innovations that will shape our nation's future.

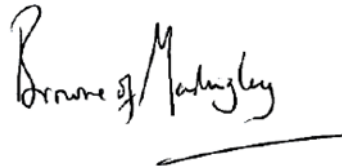
Whatever the final outcome, we stand ready to support government in achieving the best outcomes for UK science and technology.

This letter is copied to the Chancellor of the Exchequer; the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology; the Foreign Secretary; the Secretary of State for Education; the Home Secretary; the Chief Secretary to the Treasury; the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation; the Cabinet Secretary; and the Permanent Secretaries of HM Treasury, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, Department for Education, and the Home Office.

Yours sincerely,



Dame Angela McLean
Co-chair



Lord Browne of Madingley
Co-chair