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THE PRIME MINISTER

7 October 2016

Dear Sir Mark

Thank you and Dame Nancy Rothwell for your letter of 21 July, in which you set out the Council's views on how science and technology can contribute to the Government's economic and industrial strategies.

I recognise the wealth of experience and insight that governments over the years have been able to draw on from the Council for Science and Technology and appreciate the thinking you have set out in your letter.

I have been clear that this Government needs to formulate an industrial strategy that positions us well for the future, ensuring the benefits of growth are shared across cities and regions up and down the country. We need long-term productivity growth, and I agree with the Council that science and innovation will be key to delivering this.

As we develop our Industrial Strategy we will want to support and encourage companies to trade internationally, and create a business environment that will attract overseas investors to locate, stay and grow in the UK for the long-term. The Government recognises the important role that globally mobile R&D investment plays in this regard.

We will continue to put power in the hands of local communities to drive economic growth. We will also recognise and take advantage of the differences that exist across the country and work in partnership with local business and civic leaders to deliver an economy that works for all. This is an area where the Council might be able to offer further advice about what more the Government could do to harness the role of science and technology to deliver economic benefits that are shared across the UK.

Thank you again for your advice, which we will draw on as we develop our plans for the Industrial Strategy over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Mark Walport

Professor Sir Mark Walport