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Dear Professor Tickell,

Thank you for your independent advice regarding Open Access to publications arising from UK publicly-funded research.

The United Kingdom is renowned for our world-leading science and scholarship. I am proud to be part of a Government that is committed to investing in research which is tackling important scientific questions, both large and small. In supporting the UK research endeavour, we are seeking to increase knowledge, enhance public life, expand our economy, and transform public services. For us to realise these benefits and more, research needs to be openly available.

It is therefore right that students, researchers, businesses and anyone with an interest should be able to access, without additional cost, the publicly-funded research findings of our great universities and research institutes.

Your advice demonstrates that the UK is at the forefront of the global movement towards Open Access to research. Over half of the publications arising from publicly funded research can now be read online and without payment, one year after publication. It is a significant achievement to have reached the current rate of Open Access adoption and I look forward to UKRI pursuing routes which allow us to reach our 100% target in an affordable way.

Progress in Open Access has been achieved as a result of cooperation between research funders, universities, learned societies and publishers: I am grateful for their continued participation.

You have made a number of valuable recommendations on enhancing Open Access and I ask all stakeholders to consider them carefully, and to continue to strive for sustainable, equitable and open access to UK research.

Yours sincerely,

CHRIS SKIDMORE MP