



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

## **REGULATORY HORIZONS COUNCIL**

### **Roundtable on Research Commercialisation**

**16 June 2020**

## **Attendees**

### **Chair**

- Cathryn Ross, Chair of the Regulatory Horizons Council

### **Attendees**

- David Huntley, Head Company Creation, University of Newcastle
- Jaci Barnett, Head Research Commercialisation and Investment, University of Bristol
- Jacqueline Wood, Head Business Partnerships, Natural Environment Research Council (UKRI)
- Lynn Gladden, Executive Chair, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (UKRI)
- Mustafa Rampuri, Director Quantum Technologies Innovation Centre, University of Bristol
- Melanie Calvert, Director, Birmingham Health Partners Centre for Regulatory Science and Innovation
- Nick Bassett, Associate Director Innovation, Biotech and Biological Sciences Research Council (UKRI)
- Sarah Dickson, Head Regulatory Support Centre, Medical Research Council (UKRI)
- Steve Taylor, Head Strategic Research Development, University of Birmingham
- Tamsin Mann, Director Policy and Communications, PraxisAuril
- Tony Raven, CEO University of Cambridge Enterprise

### **Observers**

- Sarah Montgomery, BEIS, Deputy Director Regulatory Horizons Council & International team
- Samuel Omolade, BEIS, Head of Regulatory Horizons Council team
- Tristan Bishop, BEIS, Regulatory Horizons team
- Ali Arif, BEIS, Regulatory Horizons Council team

## Introduction from Cathryn Ross

- Cathryn Ross, Chair of the Regulatory Horizons Council (RHC), set out her background, including twenty years' experience in regulation, noting that the full Council, an additional five members once appointed, will have a breadth of experience and expertise beyond regulation.
- Cathryn described the RHC vision as to help shape a regulatory system that allows the **UK to get the best benefit and value from technological innovations by creating the conditions that enable innovation and fostering trust to ensure take-up.**
- Cathryn described the RHC as intending to be collaborative and make use of participatory approaches, acknowledging that members of the Council won't have 'answers to all the questions' - it will **co-create recommendations.**
- The RHC will not have an existing institutional lens to examine innovations from, so can look more holistically at emerging technologies and innovations.
- The purpose of this roundtable is to learn from attendees what are the pressing issues when it comes to commercialising research and where it interacts with regulation or will in future.

## Discussion on RHC Vision

Roundtable attendees gave a favourable view on the RHC Vision and Statement of Intent. In particular, they noted that:

- It is positive to focus on anticipatory regulation and proactively reforming regulation to unlock the 'stalling' of innovation pipelines.
- Working collaboratively will be key, so it is welcome that the RHC Statement of Intent emphasises this.
- It could be more effective to look at technologies holistically rather than applications, as many technologies will cross sectoral boundaries and have effects on many parts of the economy.

Further areas where the RHC can add value, suggested by attendees:

- Linking into regulatory development around the principles of Responsible Innovation.
- Embedding regulatory thinking at a much earlier stage in the 'research journey'.
- Engaging with organisations early on to develop regulation policy.
- Maintaining public trust in new technologies and innovations.

## Discussion on RHC Priorities

In the next item, attendees discussed sectors of technological innovation that the RHC could explore. These included:

- The circular economy and regulation around recycling and recovering commodities, batteries for example.
- Quantum technology, although it is further away from market application. It is still important to think about regulation for it early on.
- Hydrogen fuel cells for transport.
- Carbon capture and storage.
- Health and medical sector. There will be huge opportunity for HealthTech in the coming years.
- Biological engineering/synthetic biology.
- New materials and chemical engineering.

Other points:

- It would be useful to know what outputs from the RHC would look like, and the ultimate 'deliverables'.
- It will be important to know how to evaluate the performance and articulate a clear vision of 'what good looks like'.

## Engaging and working together

- Cathryn asked attendees how they would like to engage with the RHC going forward, and if they knew of networks/communities to link the RHC up with.
- Lynn Gladden commented that it could be useful to have a working group, with similar attendees, set up regularly for future engagement around Research Commercialisation.
- Steve Taylor mentioned how it may be possible for the RHC to commission research through the UKRI Councils.
- Melanie Calvert noted that academic centres are keen to work collaboratively and could also do some of the 'deep dive' research on behalf of the RHC.

- Nick Bassett noted that UKRI is currently going through a systemic review of how to commercialise research, and thought RHC should be a part of this process.
- Mustafa Rampuri kindly offered access to the networks of the Bristol Digital Futures Institute, which examines social and ethical challenges that new technologies bring.
- Tamsin Mann also mentioned that she is happy to push out information from the RHC through the PraxisAuril network of Knowledge Exchange professionals.

## Next Steps

- The RHC will conduct follow up interviews with attendees, to unpack some of the discussions here.
- Cathryn thanked attendees for their time, for a productive discussion, and hoped to continue this conversation and create an ongoing community.