

10 DOWNING STREET LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 July 2020

Dew Patrile & Naucy,

Thank you both for your letter of 25 June on behalf of the Council for Science and Technology. I am grateful for the Council's suggestions on principles for defining and delivering successful science "moon-shots".

At this time, it is vital that we look not only to the immediate challenges facing us from the global pandemic, but also the long-term challenges and opportunities that we face as a society, and indeed globally.

The COVID-19 pandemic has starkly illuminated the importance of science-led decision-making, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to the exceptional scientists across the UK – and indeed the world – who have worked tirelessly to help us combat the virus, and eventually defeat it with a vaccine.

Science and research are at the heart of this Government's agenda, and I am enthusiastic to work closely together on ideas that will excite the public and change the world for the better. This Government backs British innovation, which is why we chose to publish our 'R&D Roadmap' on 1 July, setting out a vision for how we will make the UK a science superpower, and invest £22 billion per annum by 2024/25. I would be grateful if you could work closely with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, as well as UK Research & Innovation as we look towards the autumn, and develop our plan for economic renewal.

We are faced today with several daunting global issues, such as climate change, which demand a coordinated political response as well as innovative technological solutions. In my speech in Dudley on 30 June, I outlined my ambition that the UK should aim to produce the world's first zero emission long-haul passenger plane, which could one day help keep the world connected without the environmental impact that comes with air travel today.



I have asked the Secretaries of State for Business and Transport to help deliver this ambition using the principles that you have set out in your letter. I would be grateful if the Council and the Government Office for Science would lend their expertise and support to Government departments in making this ambition a reality.

I am looking forward to working closely with you to transform the UK into a global powerhouse of cutting-edge science, research and innovation. Thank you, once again, for writing.

