



Department for
Science, Innovation,
& Technology

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP
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Sir Paul Nurse
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Dear Sir Paul,

It was a pleasure to meet you on 22nd February and I would like to begin by offering my congratulations on the publication of the impressive Review of the Research, Development and Innovation Organisational Landscape, alongside my thanks for the time and commitment you have given to this seminal piece of work.

As you know, the importance of this Review cannot be understated. You have eloquently demonstrated the potential that science, innovation and technology have to change our world and improve all of our lives. To maximise these benefits you make a strong case for the vital role of effective leadership and co-ordination. I strongly agree, and this is why the Prime Minister has recently established a new department in the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. I am delighted to have the privilege of leading the department to deliver on the UK's mission to become the most innovative economy in the world and a Science and Technology Superpower. I am confident that this Review will play a foundational role in shaping and delivering that vision. I look forward to working with you to ensure the UK can be at the forefront of critical and emerging fields of science and technology.

You highlight that sustained and well-targeted public and private investment is essential to achieving the UK's scientific aspirations. I wholeheartedly agree. The Government is committed to funding for Research, Development and Innovation and has confirmed protection of the R&D budget. This will see investment of £20 billion over 2024/25, the largest increase in R&D spend ever over a Spending Review period, including the allocation of £2.6 billion to Innovate UK programmes to support the UK's most innovative companies and a 35% uplift in funding for the impressive array of Catapults.

You have provided some excellent, detailed and insightful advice on reforming the mechanisms for supporting new and existing organisations within the research landscape and set an important challenge in terms of securing the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of new units and institutes. Your Review has also highlighted important opportunities for Government to ensure a diverse RDI landscape. I am strongly persuaded by the case you make for the value of testing different models of funding science and working with industry and philanthropic partners to increase permeability between sectors. As a first step I have directed my department to take forward a programme of work exploring opportunities to galvanize such co-investment to drive the discoveries of the future, supported by up to £50 million of Government funding. I will also want to ensure that in assessing the overall diversity of the UK RDI Landscape we build on clear principles including clarity of mission, leadership excellence and long-term financial sustainability. My



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department will swiftly respond with a package of measures that take account of your advice and I hope to publish that shortly.

I am confident that the report's recommendations offer important ways to further support the world-leading research organisations based in the UK, future-proofing the existing system and helping to support important societal goals around net zero and improving the nation's health.

Once again, I wanted to thank you for your work on the Review. The Government will set out a detailed response to your recommendations in the coming months. I look forward to working with you and would appreciate an ongoing dialogue as we move to implementing your recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP

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