

The Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

3 April 2023

Dear Chancellor

We are writing to you as representatives of the Royal Society of Biology, Royal Society of Chemistry, and Institute of Physics – the professional bodies and learned societies for science in the UK.

We value your support of the UK scientific community and appreciate your continued efforts to prioritise the UK's ongoing investment in scientific research, as part of its science and technology superpower ambitions.

But to fully realise these ambitions, the UK's association to Horizon Europe is crucial. It's not just about the funding: the international collaboration and networks, world-class infrastructure and access to talent that EU Framework Programmes offer are hugely important, beneficial and irreplaceable to UK businesses, researchers and the economy.

Businesses value participation: in a survey of nearly 5,800 scientists, 88% of academics and 70% of industry professionals said UK involvement in EU Framework Programmes had a positive impact on UK science and innovation. UK involvement has been invaluable for many high-growth SMEs, whose success is vital for the UK's science superpower ambitions. Additionally, Horizon programmes are a vital gateway to broader international collaboration: under Horizon 2020, the UK established over 237,000 collaborative links in 163 countries, with 12% of the individual links outside the EU.

Our briefing document, which is attached, sets out the many benefits that come from UK association to Horizon, including its ability to attract and retain talented researchers, and to create the innovative ecosystem necessary to drive UK research and development. Continuing our participation in the programme will ensure UK scientists can access European research facilities, funding opportunities, data and networks of academic and industrial collaborators. This will bolster the scientific advancements that will enable the UK to have a truly innovative economy.

We would welcome a clear commitment from you that full UK participation in Horizon Europe remains the priority, as it is essential for safeguarding the long-standing reputation of UK scientific research and innovation, and therefore central to the UK's economic growth.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



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CC: George Freeman MP, Minister for Science, Research & Innovation