

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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3 April 2023

Dear Prime Minister

We are writing on behalf 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 share your enthusiasm for the incredible wave of science and technological change that is happening around the world, and hugely welcome your commitment to putting innovation at the heart of everything we do. As organisations representing over 100,000 scientists in many sectors and from many backgrounds in the UK and across the world, we know that innovation will drive economic growth, create new jobs, and help us address societal challenges.

But to reach our full innovation and growth potential, the UK's association to Horizon Europe is crucial. UK participation in EU framework programmes has been hugely beneficial for British businesses and the wider UK research and innovation community. And 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.

Our briefing document, which you can find attached, sets out the many benefits that come from UK association to Horizon programmes, including the 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 we are able to have access to 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 best for the UK and its science and innovation capabilities.

Yours sincerely



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