24 July 2014

Dear Minister,

The Science and Technology Select Committee

I am writing to you, in my capacity as Chairman of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee, to welcome you to your new position and make you aware of a brief inquiry that the Committee has recently concluded.

Across three meetings earlier this month, the Committee took oral evidence on the topic of: “2025: Priorities for scientific research.” This is, of course, an enormous topic and the aim of this activity was not to provide a comprehensive analysis, but rather to ensure that the positions of high profile witnesses were put into the public domain. In particular, the Committee wished to provide a forum for discussion about the key issues with which the Government’s forthcoming Science and Innovation Strategy must engage. The Committee took evidence from a range of witnesses, including academics, the Technology Strategy Board, the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE), the National Academies, the Wellcome Trust, the Research Councils, AstraZeneca and the Government’s Chief Scientific Adviser. The evidence offered much food for thought and we would urge you, as you begin to engage with the Strategy in your new position, to take into account the views expressed. The evidence is all available on the Committee’s website.

Should you like to discuss this letter with me, please do not hesitate to get in touch. This letter will be posted on the Committee’s website in the normal way.

Yours sincerely,

LORD SELBORNE

Chairman of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Minister of State for Cabinet Office (Cities and Constitution) and Minister of State for Universities and Science