



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Robin Walker MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Exiting the EU
9 Downing Street
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25 August 2017

Dear Robin,

Leaving the EU: Implications and opportunities for science and research

I have recently been elected as Chair of the Science and Technology Committee, and in due course I will be asking the new Committee to consider its future programme of inquiries.

To inform that discussion, I would be grateful if you could provide me with an update on the Government's plans for supporting science and research in the context of leaving the European Union, building on the information provided to the previous Committee in the Government's response to its *Leaving the EU: Implications and opportunities for science and research* report.

In particular, it would be helpful if you could provide me with your current plans in relation to:

- Transposing the forthcoming Clinical Trials Regulation into UK law. It appears that the new regulation may now be due to take effect *after* we leave the EU, and may therefore not be covered by the proposals in the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.
- Negotiating ongoing access to Horizon 2020 and its successor programmes (or establishing replacement domestic schemes). The Government has previously offered reassurances that EU funding awarded before Brexit but extending beyond that point will be underwritten by the Treasury. However the question now is whether researchers should invest time in submitting bids where the award is likely to be made *after* that point. Universities and other institutions have made clear that they need to know now whether they should be preparing bids, so there is an urgency that the Government clarifies the position on Horizon 2020 and participation in the successor programmes.



- Designing an appropriate immigration system for EU scientists and researchers seeking to work or study in the UK. The previous Committee identified the risks of restrictions in this area, but subsequent Government announcements on proposed immigration systems and guarantees have not specifically addressed the risks and opportunities for scientists and researchers.

Recent media reports suggest that the Government intends to publish a paper at the end of September outlining plans for science and research in the context of Brexit; I would be grateful if you could clarify whether this paper will provide the certainty that researchers need in relation to preparing H2020/Framework Programme 9 bids, and the expected timescale for this paper.

My hope is that the new Committee will be able to meet before the Conference Recess. Having the latest information in relation to science and Brexit will help inform the new Committee's plans, and I look forward to your reply. I am copying this letter to Jo Johnson MP as Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, and to Lord O'Shaughnessy as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health (given my interest in the Clinical Trials Regulation).

I look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Norman Lamb'.

Norman Lamb MP
Chair