



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

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The National Quantum Technologies Programme

The Commons Science and Technology Committee is currently holding an inquiry into quantum technologies, influenced partly by the timeframe of the first phase of the National Quantum Technologies Programme. As you are aware, this programme was awarded Government funding for five years starting in 2014, and therefore funding is currently due to come to an end next year.

Throughout the course of our inquiry, we have heard about the significant opportunities presented by quantum technologies, and the world-leading position that the national programme has helped the UK to achieve. We have also been warned of increasing international competition in this area as technologies approach commercialisation. What is clear is that there is a very strong call from the sector for continuation of the national programme into a second phase (in accordance with the 2016 recommendation from the Government Office for Science).¹ These issues will be covered in more detail in our forthcoming Report, which we expect to publish later this year.

We have also heard of the importance of any decision to continue the national programme being announced and confirmed as soon as possible, and by no later than this Autumn, to give certainty to those working in the field and to ensure a smooth transition from the first phase of the programme to any second phase. In particular, the mobility of the highly-skilled people needed to drive the programme forward has been highlighted as a threat should there be a gap between the two phases of the programme. Given the urgency of this situation, the Committee has decided that I should write to you to encourage confirmation of a decision regarding the future funding of the National Quantum Technologies Programme as soon as possible.

I would be happy to discuss this matter with you further.

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair

¹ 'The Quantum Age: technological opportunities', Government Office for Science (2016)S