Pre-appointment hearings
Thank you for your letter of 22 March 2019 relating to pre-appointment hearings.

There has been liaison, as you suggested, between the Science and Technology Committee and the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee. It has been agreed that the Science and Technology Committee will take the lead on holding a pre-appointment hearing for the Chair of UKRI position.

The Committees will take a pragmatic approach to Research Council positions when they arise and the two Committees will discuss whether either or both Committees wish to hold a pre-commencement hearing, or similar for the Executive Chairs. While I recognise that Committees can invite individuals to give evidence, given the importance of these roles I should be grateful, as per my previous letter, if you would confirm that the Department will alert the Committee:

- whenever recruitment processes for the Executive Chairs are launched;
- the name of your preferred candidate before their appointment is announced; and
- information relating to the recruitment process, if requested by the Committee, at the same level of detail as the Committee would receive for a pre-appointment scrutiny hearing (as set out on Box 1, page 5 of the Cabinet Office Guidance: pre-appointment scrutiny by House of Commons select committees), so that the Committee can hold a pre-commencement hearing should it so wish.

I would be grateful for your response by Tuesday 30 April. I am copying this letter to Rachel Reeves MP and Oliver Dowden MP.

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair