



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
<http://www.parliament.uk/science>
scitechcom@parliament.uk / 020 7219 2792

From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Sam Gyimah MP
Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
SW1H 0ET

22nd November 2018

Dear Sam,

'No deal' preparations and Horizon 2020

The Government's technical notice "Horizon 2020 funding if there's no deal" (published 23 August) provides some useful information on what a no deal scenario would mean for the science community. However, I would be grateful if you could provide some further clarification on the following points:

1. The technical notice explains that 'third country' participation in Horizon 2020 does not provide access to European Research Council grants, some Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, and the SME instrument. I would be grateful if you could set out:
 - what actions the Government has taken since August to develop replacement domestic schemes to be introduced in the event of no deal;
 - what level of funding would be required to establish them;
 - whether this funding would come from the existing science budget; and
 - on what timescale such schemes could be established after March 2019.
2. The technical notice states that:

We are aware of some cases where UK participants lead a consortium and are responsible for distributing funding to the other participants; the UK government is seeking to discuss how this could best be addressed in a 'no deal' scenario with the European Commission. These discussions would also need to include consideration of projects where the UK's change in status from member state to third country could lead to concerns about ongoing compliance with Horizon 2020 rules (for example, where a consortium no longer meets the threshold for member state and/or associated country participants).

I would be grateful if you could set out:

- what discussions with the Commission have been held on this point so far, and when you expect the situation to be clarified;
- whether a similar issue regarding coordinating and distributing funds will arise for new Horizon 2020 bids after Brexit in the event of no deal (with the UK as a third

country from the start of the bid, rather than a change of status), and what has been confirmed with the Commission in relation to this.

It would be helpful if you could reply by 4 December at the latest, as the Science and Technology Committee may wish to follow up on your response at the scheduled evidence session on 11 December.

Yes.



Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair