



## DEBATE PACK

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# Exiting the EU and science and research

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## Summary

This Debate pack has been prepared for the General Debate on the **Exiting the EU and science and research** to take place in the Main Chamber on Monday 19 December 2016 at approximately 3:30pm.

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The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

# 1. Summary

The ingenuity of the UK research community will likely be tested when it comes to maximising opportunities arising from the referendum decision to leave the EU. Four key requirements for UK universities have been identified in a [recent blog by Dr Anne Corbett](#), Associate, LSE Enterprise:

- support to maintain and enhance the UK's international research collaboration
- support to ensure UK is an attractive destination for talent
- support for UK students and staff to access vital global opportunities
- increased public investment in the UK research base

The first three of these needs relate significantly to freedom of movement, and research in "science" – including the arts, humanities, social sciences, engineering as well as traditional natural sciences (all supported by the research councils and part of the "science budget") – has long been an international endeavour.

This UK is one of the largest beneficiaries of EU research funding. The European Research Area (ERA) was launched by the European Commission in 2000 with the aim of coordinating research and innovation activities across the EU. ERA initiatives are developed through periodic framework programmes; the current programme, Horizon 2020, aims to allocate €80 billion for research and innovation from 2014 to 2020. Funding is allocated on a competitive basis through the European Research Council.

Concerns over public investment in science will have been allayed, at least to some extent, by recent government announcements following the EU referendum. In August 2016, the [Chancellor gave an undertaking](#) to underwrite the payment of EU research grants extending beyond the point at which the UK leaves the EU. Subsequently, the [Autumn Statement 2016](#) announced a real terms increase in government investment worth £2 billion per year by 2020 for research and development. This additional funding had been referred to the previous Monday (21 November 2016) by the Prime Minister in a [speech to the CBI Conference](#). In addition to the increased R&D funding, the Prime Minister announced:

- A 'new Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to back priority technologies';
- A review of current R&D tax incentives.

The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee published its [report](#), *Leaving the EU: Implications and opportunities for science and research*, on 18 November 2016 (HC 502). The Committee repeated an earlier call on the Government to increase spending on research and development, while extending a measured welcome to the

Government's "helpful reassurance" by promising to underwrite the payment of EU grants extending beyond the point at which the UK leaves the European Union.

Reflecting a prevalent mood among the scientific community, the Committee emphasised a need to guarantee the position of EU researchers working in the UK. The Committee considered that measures were needed "to attract skilled researchers and students" and that these should include "an immediate commitment" to exempt EU researchers already working in the UK from any wider potential immigration controls.

## 2. Press articles

The following is a selection of recent press and media articles relevant to this debate. Please note: the Library is not responsible for the views expressed in, nor the accuracy of, external content.

**[We'll thrive after Brexit, say university chiefs](#)**

The Times, 9 December 2016

**[Sweden bids for EU medicines agency based in London](#)**

The Daily Telegraph, December 9, 2016

**[Brexit could see EU student numbers nose dive, Cambridge warns;](#)**

The Guardian, December 8, 2016

**[UK to ratify EU patent system despite Brexit](#)**

telegraph.co.uk, November 28, 2016

**[Theresa May to promise £2bn a year for scientific research;](#)**

The Guardian, November 21, 2016

**[Firms to defy Brexit fears with science spending boom; CBI says most want to invest in research, as Prime Minister unveils £2bn boost for innovation](#)**

The Daily Telegraph, November 21, 2016

**[What will Brexit mean for Britain's world-class universities?: Academics fear a threat to research, funding and overseas recruitment](#)**

The Observer, November 13, 2016

**[Brexit vote has not sparked a tech exodus](#)**

telegraph.co.uk, November 13, 2016

**[UK could miss out on EU science grants post-Brexit](#)**

telegraph.co.uk, November 5, 2016

**[Our universities and research centres are thriving. Brexit threatens them;](#)**

The Observer, October 16, 2016

**[Brexit 'not good news for British science' warn new Nobel laureates;](#)**

The Guardian, October 6, 2016

**[EU countries in scramble to 'steal' UK-based research centres;](#)**

The Observer, September 17, 2016

**[Make life sciences the industrial key to Brexit-Britain](#)**

The Daily Telegraph, September 6, 2016

**[Space sector brought back down to earth; Referendum: Economic fallout](#)**

Financial Times, August 15, 2016

**[What the life science sector needs to thrive after EU exit](#)**

The Daily Telegraph, August 3, 2016

**[Brexit will offer a brighter future for science](#)**

The Daily Telegraph, July 23, 2016

**[Erasmus scheme may exclude British students after Brexit;](#)**

The Observer, July 23, 2016

**[Brexit: Europe's university leaders call for 'continued collaboration' after EU referendum result;](#)**

The Independent, July 22, 2016

**[Brexit will help make British universities the envy of the world](#)**

telegraph.co.uk, July 22, 2016

## 3. Press releases

### **Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy**

#### [EU nationals remain eligible for postgraduate support from UK's Research Councils](#)

02 Dec 2016

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining the UK's status as a world-leader in science and research.

- [Research Council](#) studentships remain open to EU students starting courses in academic year 2017 to 2018
- the funding support will cover the duration of their course, even if the UK leaves the EU
- reaffirms government commitment to maintaining the UK's status as a world-leader in science and research

The government will continue to support the UK's world leading science and research sector by continuing to welcome the best minds from across Europe to study in the UK. The importance of international science and research collaboration was reaffirmed yesterday (1 December 2016) with the announcement that EU nationals beginning courses in academic year 2017 to 2018 remain eligible for postgraduate training support from the UK's Research Councils on the current basis.

As home to some of the world's best universities and research facilities, the UK attracts students from across Europe and beyond to study in the UK. Yesterday's clarification means EU nationals starting courses in the next academic year will continue to have access to Research Council PhD studentships to help fund their study in the UK.

Universities and Science Minister Jo Johnson yesterday said:

The UK is a world leader in science and research and a key part of that is attracting the brightest talent from across the world to contribute to the pioneering work being done in our universities and research centres.

Today's clarification on postgraduate support for EU students starting courses in 2017 to 2018 is further evidence of our commitment to ensuring the UK remains at the forefront of global science.

Chair of Research Councils UK (RCUK) Professor Philip Nelson said:

Supporting the most talented students at the start of their research career is something which RCUK takes very seriously. We are very pleased that both students and higher education institutions can now feel confident in moving ahead with recruitment for the next academic year. We will continue to work with government to provide as much clarity and assurance for the future as possible.

The news follows the Department for Education's [announcement](#) in October 2016 that EU nationals applying for undergraduate and masters' courses starting in academic year 2017 to 2018 will remain eligible for student loans and grants for the duration of their courses.

Further information on [RCUK funding for research training](#)

## Universities UK

### [New government investment in research and development 'good news'](#) – UUK President

21 November 2016

Universities UK welcomed the [announcement](#) today from Prime Minister Theresa May that the UK government will increase its investment in research and development by £2 billion a year by the end of this Parliament.

Dame Julia Goodfellow, President of Universities UK and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent, said: "This is good news. We are pleased that government is continuing its commitment to research and development with this new investment.

"It is recognition of the importance of research and innovation to economic growth and to meeting the big, global challenges we face. It will also help strengthen the links between UK university research and business.

"Our international competitors have been increasing their spending in this area, so this announcement will help maintain the UK's position as a global leader in research and innovation."

## Prime Minister's Office

### [Prime Minister announces major research boost to make Britain the go-to place for innovators and investors](#)

21 November 2016

Prime Minister Theresa May will outline the first steps in a modern, ambitious Industrial Strategy which will build on the UK's strengths.

- additional £2 billion government investment per year for research and development by the end of this Parliament
- new Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund will help Britain capitalise on its strengths in cutting-edge research like AI and biotech
- PM: "It is about government stepping up, not stepping back"

In her first speech to the CBI Annual Conference today, Prime Minister Theresa May will outline the first steps in a modern, ambitious Industrial Strategy which will build on the country's strengths and address the long-term structural challenges which can hold British businesses back.

The Prime Minister will use her speech to business leaders today to outline how her government will step up to the task and get the economy firing on all cylinders by announcing plans to secure the UK's long-term commitment to research and innovation, including:

- substantial real terms increases in government investment worth £2 billion per year by 2020 for research and development, to ensure British business remains at the cutting edge of scientific and technological discovery
- a new Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to back priority technologies – such as robotics and biotechnology – where the UK has the potential to turn strengths in research into a global industrial and commercial lead

- a review of current R&D tax incentives to ensure the global competitiveness of the UK as a home for scientists, innovators and tech investors

The Prime Minister will build on her [message to the Lord Mayor's Banquet](#) at Guildhall last week, by arguing that government and business must work together to ensure growth and opportunity is shared in a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.

Prime Minister Theresa May will say:

Our modern Industrial Strategy will be ambitious for business and ambitious for Britain.

It is a new way of thinking for government – a new approach. It is about government stepping up, not stepping back, building on our strengths, and helping Britain overcome the long-standing challenges in our economy that have held us back for too long.

It is about making the most of the historic opportunity we now have to signal an important, determined change.

Heralding a new, modern Industrial Strategy which this government will deliver hand-in-hand with business, the Prime Minister will tell business leaders at the CBI conference:

It is not about propping up failing industries or picking winners, but creating the conditions where winners can emerge and grow.

It is about backing those winners all the way, to encourage them to invest in the long-term future of Britain. And about delivering jobs and economic growth to every community and corner of the country.

That is the ambition – and we need your help to put it into practice.

In her speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet last week, the Prime Minister said that the supporters of business must recognise when change is necessary. Today she will reiterate the need to improve the reputation of business, which has been damaged by a small minority, by asking British businesses to demonstrate leadership in restoring this reputation and the trust of the public.

Looking ahead to the government's upcoming Green Paper on Corporate Governance, the Prime Minister will say:

This will be a genuine consultation – we want to work with the grain of business and to draw from what works. But it will also be a consultation that will deliver results.

#### *Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund*

The new Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, overseen by UK Research and Innovation, will back projects covering a number of priority technologies and help Britain build on existing strengths in research and development.

Despite its strengths in science, Britain has until now been relatively weak on commercialisation, meaning that all too often ideas developed in this country end up being commercialised elsewhere.

Government will consult on how the fund can best support emerging fields such as robotics and artificial intelligence, industrial biotechnology and medical technology, satellites, advanced materials manufacturing and other areas where the UK has a proven scientific strength and there is a significant economic opportunity for commercialisation.

*Creating a competitive environment for UK research*

To realise the full economic potential of these new technologies, the Prime Minister will also announce a review of the support for organisations undertaking research through the tax system, looking at the global competitiveness of the UK offer.

The government's business and tax reforms since 2010 have delivered one of the most competitive corporate tax regimes in the world by cutting corporation tax and increasing R&D tax credits – from £1 billion to almost £2.5 billion a year.

Research shows each £1 spent on R&D tax credits stimulates between £1.53 and £2.35 of additional investment in the UK.

The Prime Minister will announce that HM Treasury will look at whether we can make this support even more effective, to ensure the UK continues to actively encourage innovation.

## **Universities UK**

### [Response to Science and Technology Committee Brexit report](#)

18 November 2016

Universities UK responded today to the Science and Technology Committee [report](#) on the implications and opportunities for science and research following the vote to leave the EU. MPs on the committee are calling on the government to make an immediate commitment to exempt EU scientists and researchers already working in the UK from wider potential immigration controls.

Nicola Dandridge, Chief Executive of Universities UK, said: "In order to ensure that UK universities can retain talented EU staff, the UK government should provide assurances about their ability to remain in the UK long-term as soon as possible. EU staff contribute enormously to the excellent research, teaching and professional services at our universities, and there is fierce global competition for them. If the message from the UK government is that they are not welcome to stay and work here, they will be eagerly recruited by our competitors.

"If universities are to thrive following the UK's exit from the EU, it is essential that staff and students from across the world can come to the UK without unnecessary administrative burdens.

"We hope the government uses next week's autumn statement to show that the UK wants to retain and build on its reputation for world-leading research. If we are to keep up with our international competitors and overcome the global challenges we face today, the government must substantially increase public investment in science and research.

“We also support the report’s recommendation to appoint a Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department for Exiting the EU. This would help to ensure that the significant implications of leaving the EU for science and research were adequately reflected in the government’s post-exit plans.”

## **Universities UK**

[Universities UK President sets out vision for how universities can thrive post-Brexit](#)

7 September 2016

The President of Universities UK (UUK) has said that universities can continue to thrive post-Brexit, given the right support from government.

In [her keynote speech](#) to university leaders at Universities UK’s annual members’ conference, Dame Julia Goodfellow, President of Universities UK and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent, said that, while the referendum outcome poses significant challenges for UK universities, the sector is well-placed to identify and create opportunities as we plan for life outside the EU.

In her address, Dame Julia Goodfellow said: “In planning for life outside the EU we, like the government, have a vision of a strong post-Brexit Britain with a thriving economy and a fairer society. The vote to leave the EU poses significant challenges for universities that we need to address, however, we believe that British universities can thrive post-exit with the right support from government.

The UUK annual conference, taking place this year at Nottingham Trent University, is the largest annual gathering of university vice-chancellors, with over 100 university leaders and other key figures from the university sector in attendance. Universities Minister Jo Johnson MP also addressed delegates during the same conference session [on Wednesday morning](#).

In her speech, she also called for a new approach to immigration and international students and staff, and a new campaign to promote the UK’s world-class higher education sector across the globe.

She said: “Reform of the immigration system is long overdue, to recognise the value of international students as temporary visitors and to remove unnecessary barriers for highly-skilled international staff wanting to work at UK universities.

“We make no apologies for continuing to make the strong case for a government-backed campaign to promote the UK’s world-class higher education sector across the globe, accompanied by a visa regime that makes clear that international students and staff are welcome and make a highly valued contribution to the British economy and society.”

“We must redouble our efforts to promote the values of diversity, tolerance and freedom of speech that make British universities the envy of the world. We are best when we are outward looking, globally networked and welcoming to the world.”

Dame Julia said that UK universities remained widely respected around the world and we should use the opportunity to rebuild trust in the UK as a place to invest, a place to create jobs and a place to create international partnerships.

She said: “Universities support the UK's soft power and global partnerships. Many leading international figures are alumni of British universities and our universities are globally connected with businesses, governments, research partners and other universities worldwide.”

Addressing the issue of social mobility and participation in higher education, she said that she supported wholeheartedly the government’s ambition in this area. She said: “Our new prime minister and our new secretary of state for education lost no time in making social mobility and improved life chances for all a key ambition for the remainder of this parliament.

“I am proud that the work of Universities UK will be contributing to this hugely important issue by analysing current policies and practices, and developing a set of recommendations that seek to ensure that the chance to benefit from a university education, whether as a full-time student, an adult learner or a degree apprentice, is not limited by where you come from, or what your background is.

“The (UUK) Social Mobility Advisory Group will report this autumn on how universities can improve access and long-term success for underrepresented groups.”

On the Higher Education and Research that Bill, being scrutinised by MPs, Dame Julia said that it was important to protect the unique features of our universities including their outstanding teaching and their world-leading research. She said that “where we will be calling for things to be slower, more measured, and evidence-based, is with the introduction of future iterations of the Teaching Excellence Framework to ensure this adds real value for students and the sector.”

#### *Notes*

Dame Julia’s conference speech in full is to be found [here](#). Professor

Dame Julia Goodfellow is President of Universities UK and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kent. Her two-year term as President started on 1 August 2015.

Universities UK is the representative organisation for the UK’s universities. Founded in 1918, its mission is to be the definitive voice for all universities in the UK, providing high quality leadership and support to its members to promote a successful and diverse higher education sector. With [135 members](#) and offices in London, Cardiff ([Universities Wales](#)) and Edinburgh ([Universities Scotland](#)), it promotes the strength and success of UK universities nationally and internationally.

**Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy**

[International scientific solutions to our shared global challenge](#)

26 Jul 2016

Speech by Jo Johnson MP, Minister for Universities and Science, at EuroScience Open Forum 2016 in Manchester yesterday.

Manchester is a city of radical thinking, inspirational science and world-changing firsts.

It is excellent to be here today in one of the cradles of the industrial revolution. The city where, in 1948, the first computer with a stored programme and memory, nicknamed 'Baby', was developed at Manchester University.

And the birthplace of graphene, a revolutionary material, discovered by 2 scientists, who were born overseas and chose to make Britain their home.

Ladies and gentleman, this is an important moment for British science, as we contemplate our future beyond membership of the European Union.

Theresa May, in one of her first major speeches as Prime Minister, said she wanted the United Kingdom to formulate a new industrial strategy; and great British science, as one of our truly outstanding national assets and areas of comparative advantage, will surely be one of its main building-blocks.

The case for doing everything we can to build up our national strengths in science and innovation in a post-Brexit world is powerful.

And Manchester must play its full part.

I am pleased that Manchester and the East Cheshire region are undertaking one of the first science and innovation audits, focusing on their 'core strength' areas of health innovation and advanced materials; as well as the 'fast growth opportunities' around digital, energy, and industrial biotechnology.

You are leading the way in these audits, gathering the evidence needed to make quality decisions that will have a real impact.

And it is with this in mind I am pleased to be able to announce that the second call for expressions of interest for the next wave of science and innovation audits will be launched today.

Designed to map out local research, innovation and infrastructure strengths across the UK, these audits will help identify and build on the potential of every region across the country by making sure investment is properly targeted and uncovering opportunities for businesses to tap into.

Today, here at ESOF, we have an opportunity to remind ourselves that science is international; that we live in a world in which no border can be closed to science; that the UK plays a leading role in that global endeavour; and that scientific progress here or anywhere else hinges on the close partnerships that we forge.

It was impressive that the organisers of ESOF received 350 applications from scientists from the 4 corners of the globe to be given the opportunity to deliver scientific sessions during this conference in response to the overarching conference theme 'Science as Revolution'.

I hope that the presentations and discussions in the 150 successful sessions over the coming 3 days allow for exploration and debate on the ways which science and technology are continuing to revolutionise the world around us.

#### *Post-referendum priorities*

You don't need me to tell you that excellent science depends on excellent collaboration: sharing ideas, comparing notes, testing assumptions and, occasionally, disagreeing with each other.

This is why 'openness', as Commissioner Carlos Moedas has so eloquently explained, is such an important part of the equation.

And, I completely agree with his assessment that the strongest position to have, that benefits us all, is to be collaborative, outcome-focussed and global in our approach.

It is just over a month since the UK referendum, and the exact structure of the relationship that the UK has with the EU will require much detailed discussion. But I am absolutely clear that we will be more outward-looking than ever as a country. As the Prime Minister has said, leaving the EU does not mean leaving Europe or turning our backs on the world.

That's why I am concerned by reports that UK participants are being asked not to lead or participate in Horizon 2020 project bids or are reluctant to apply for longer projects as they are not confident they will receive money due after the UK's eventual departure from the EU.

It is worth remembering that in legal terms, nothing changed overnight following the referendum. The UK remains an EU member during the 2-year renegotiation period, with all the rights and obligations that derive from this.

EU students studying here, or looking to start in the autumn, remain eligible for student finance for the full duration of their courses. We remain fully open to scientists and researchers from across the EU. We hugely value the contribution of EU and international staff. And there are no immediate changes to their rights to live and work in the UK.

I would like to thank Commissioner Carlos Moedas and his colleagues in the European Commission for helping us to remind people of these facts.

Just as I welcome the statement by the League of European Research Universities that UK universities are, and will continue to be, indispensable collaborative partners; its decision to call upon those who review funding applications to see the engagement of UK partners as a desirable feature of projects, rather than a risk; and its commendable position that it is "completely inappropriate to respond to the

referendum by taking decisions that punish UK researchers, or disrupt partnerships”.

Of course, I completely understand that Brexit inevitably poses new challenges for us all. The immediate concerns around movement of people and grant status, are understandable, they are the obvious things to worry about when collaborations can run for many years and individual careers depend on making the right decisions.

I recognise the demand for further clarity on these issues.

In the meantime, as the UK establishes its new position in the world, we will work with you to protect our research and innovation at this time of change.

And, forgive me, Carlos, but even on the continent of Europe, the EU is not the only game in town. Academic and research cooperation in Europe predates the EU by centuries, and the community of European academic institutions has always been much wider than the EU.

The UK will continue to play a leading role in major non-EU research collaborations that take place here – from CERN in Switzerland to the European Space Agency. Just this month we confirmed the UK’s application to become a full member of a major new particle accelerator, the European Spallation Source in Sweden.

Here in the UK, we have fundamental strengths on which we must now build.

First and foremost, we have a long established system that supports, and therefore attracts, the brightest minds, at all stages of their careers. We fund excellent science wherever it is found, and ensure there is the academic freedom - the support for the scientific temper - to tackle important scientific questions.

As a government, we recognise the contribution that our world-class research base makes to our economy and wellbeing, which is why we have committed to protect the science budget in real terms, and protect the funding that flows through Innovate UK in cash terms.

The new Prime Minister has already recognised this in a letter last week to Sir Paul Nurse, the Royal Society and the CBI, which reiterated the government’s manifesto and Spending Review pledges to protecting science and research funding in real terms. This clear personal commitment is hugely welcome.

Second, we have excellent scientific infrastructure here in the UK – in universities, in existing research institutes, such as the Medical research Council MRC Laboratory for Molecular Biology and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, and in new institutes like ‘The Crick’ and ‘Royce’. This is backed by a manifesto commitment of £6.9 billion capital funding up to 2021 – that’s record levels of investment in new equipment, new laboratories and new research institutes.

Third, we have access to major research infrastructures across the world, such as the Large Hadron Collider, in which the UK plays a leading role. We are a major partner in building new infrastructure such as the

Square Kilometre Array whose global headquarters will be based at Jodrell Bank; and in the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, which made the dramatic gravitational waves discovery. It was UK researchers, working with their counterparts, who made this discovery possible.

And we are also hugely successful at innovation – second in the latest Global Innovation Index and one of the most attractive countries in the OECD for international business research and development investment.

#### *Newton Fund*

And to add to these successes, we are now more ambitious than ever to build global research partnerships that not only put the UK at the forefront of international research on global challenges, but also support the economic development and social welfare of developing countries around the world.

The government's Science and Innovation Network, through which 90 staff based in 31 countries around the world support work on global challenges such as antimicrobial resistance and climate change, exemplifies our global approach.

We have doubled our investment in the Newton Fund to £150 million per year by 2021, meaning a total UK investment of £735 million from 2014 to 2021. This is match-funded by developing countries we have identified as having the potential to become future science and innovation leaders and can benefit most from collaboration.

Extending the Newton Fund has provided a unique opportunity for UK scientists to work with partners around the world to address some of the biggest challenges of our time. And we are already seeing an impact. Since its launch, the Newton Fund has supported more than 420 awarded funded research projects on development topics including sustainable food production, urbanisation and antimicrobial resistance. Over 1,000 fellowships and placements were awarded in the first 2 years and around 1,750 researchers have made links between the UK and Newton partner countries.

We are also creating a new £1 million Newton Prize, starting next year. This will not be just a one off, but an annual prize – awarded for the best science or innovation projects that promote the economic development and social welfare of Newton partner countries or address the problems of poor people around the world.

By working together on bi-lateral and multi-lateral programmes with a research and innovation focus, the UK will build strong, sustainable, systemic relationships with partner countries. This will support the continued excellence of the UK research base and innovation ecosystem and act as a catalyst to unlock opportunities for wider collaboration and trade.

ESOF is a fantastic example of the international nature of collaboration - long may it continue. As I hope I have made clear today, the UK is, and will continue to be, a hub of global activity. And this government, now more than ever, will play its part in ensuring that the UK continues to be a place for great minds to come together from Europe and from all over

the world to build knowledge, understanding and better solutions to our shared global challenge.

## 4. Parliamentary material

### Parliamentary Questions

#### [Science and Technology Sector](#)

##### **Asked by: Mrs Gillan**

In Europe's largest space innovation competition this year, the UK took the top prize and four major awards. We have been one of the leaders in, and most successful exploiters of, space technology, and it is vital that this support continues. In particular, can the Minister confirm that the European Space Agency is entirely independent and not an EU organisation, and that our membership of and participation in ESA will continue, as will the UK's involvement in space research?

##### **Answering member: Mr Walker | Exiting the European Union**

Absolutely. The UK space industry, in which I understand my right hon. Friend's husband has played an important part, is a global success story, leveraging our best talent to deliver highly innovative products and services every year. We want a UK space industry that captures 10% of the global market by 2030, creating 100,000 new jobs. The UK will remain a member of the ESA, which is not a part of the EU. The ESA's next ministerial council is being held in Lucerne today, attended by my hon. Friend the Minister for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation.

**01 Dec 2016 | Oral answers to questions | House of Commons | House of Commons chamber | 617 c1657**

#### [Science and Technology Sector](#)

##### **Asked by: Lucy Frazer (South East Cambridgeshire) (Con)**

What representations the Government has received from the science and technology sector on priorities for its negotiations on the UK leaving the EU.

##### **Answering member: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union (Mr Robin Walker) | Department for Exiting the European Union**

The Department has a wide programme of engagements to ensure that the views of the science and technology sector are heard. For example, we have recently met representatives of the life sciences and tech sectors, and will continue to meet them in the coming months. While it is too early to speculate on our future relationship with EU science and research programmes, as part of our commitment to make Britain the global go-to nation for scientists, innovators and tech investors, we will be investing an extra £2 billion in research and development by the end of this Parliament.

**01 Dec 2016 | House of Commons chamber | 617 c1656**

[Higher Education: Research](#)

**Asked by: Murray, Ian**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2016 to Question 48877, whether higher education institutions in (a) Scotland and (b) the UK will be able to continue to apply for (i) EU research funding and (ii) the Horizon 2020 project after the UK leaves the EU; and whether HM Treasury plans to continue to underwrite the payment of such awards.

**Answering member: Joseph Johnson | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

Until our departure from the EU, we remain a fully paid up Member State, with all the rights and obligations that entails. All UK-based researchers, wherever they are located within the UK, can continue to apply for competitive EU research funding, such as the Horizon 2020 programme, while we remain a member of the EU. We will work with the European Commission to ensure payment when funds are awarded. The Treasury will underwrite the payment for such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. Access to apply for Horizon 2020 after we leave the EU will be a matter for the negotiations that will follow the triggering of Article 50.

**14 Nov 2016 | Written questions | 52160**

[Higher Education](#)

**Asked by: Dr Blackman-Woods**

As the Minister knows, the higher education sector contributes a massive £73 billion to the UK economy, including £11 billion of export earnings, yet the Department for Education has no representation on the EU Exit and Trade Committee or Sub-Committee. What reassurances can he give the House that the priorities for the sector, such as growing the number of students and sustaining research funding, are being identified and protected in the Brexit negotiations?

**Answered by: Joseph Johnson | Department: Education**

The Department has moved rapidly to provide significant reassurances to the sector in a number of respects, particularly on the continuity of the funding arrangements for Horizon 2020 resources. The Treasury will make up the continuing obligations on payments that fall due after we have left the EU. We have made it clear that EU students will be able to access our loan book and home fee status for the duration of their course of study if they start in the 2016-17 or 2017-18 academic year.

**14 Nov 2016 | Oral answers to questions | 617 c11**

[Research: Finance](#)**Asked by: Onwurah, Chi |**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the proportion of gross domestic product that is spent on science and research; and what assessment he has made of the need to change the level of such funding after the UK leaves the EU.

**Answering member: Joseph Johnson | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

Total research and development expenditure in the UK in 2014 represented 1.67% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), unchanged from 2013. Science and research are at the heart of this Government's long term economic plan and our ongoing commitment to our science and research base remains steadfast as we secure the best possible outcome for UK science and research as we exit the EU.

**14 Nov 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 52256**

[Higher Education](#)**Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim**

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, what steps he is taking to ensure that the UK leaving the EU does not have a deleterious effect on the operation of UK universities; and if he will make a statement.

**Answered by: Mr Robin Walker | Department for Exiting the European Union**

The Department for Exiting the EU has engaged with a number of higher education institutions and groups including Universities UK and Royal Academies. Over the next few months the department will continue to engage with key stakeholders in business and civil society, including universities, through a series of roundtables, bi-laterals and visits across the UK.

We have been clear that we want to create an environment in which the UK as a whole can continue to be a world leader in research, science and the tertiary education sector more broadly. The government has already announced that UK researchers can still apply for Horizon 2020 projects and the Treasury will underwrite the payment of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. Equally, EU students applying for a place at an English university or further education institution in the 2017 to 2018 academic year will continue to be eligible for student loans and grants – and will be for the duration of their course.

**24 Oct 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 49429**

### [Topical Questions](#)

**Asked by: Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods**

I did not quite catch the Minister's response earlier, so will he tell us again what priority he is giving to ensuring that universities and research funding more broadly will not be adversely affected by Brexit, and that current research protocols will be protected?

**Answered by: Mr Walker | Exiting the European Union**

The hon. Lady makes an important point. As I said earlier, we want the UK to remain a scientific superpower. We have already seen significant guarantees from the Treasury in the lead-up to 2020. It will be in the interests of future UK Governments to ensure that we remain one of the world's scientific leaders.

**20 Oct 2016 | Topical questions House of Commons | 615 c951**

### [Research and Science: EU Grants and Loans](#)

**Asked by: Zeichner, Daniel**

To ask the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, if he will make it his policy that access to EU science and research funding programmes is maintained as part of the UK's negotiations on leaving the EU.

**Answering member: Mr Robin Walker | Department for Exiting the European Union**

The Government recognises the importance of our research base, which is why we have protected the science budget in real terms from its current level of £4.7 bn for the rest of the parliament. The referendum result has no immediate effect on the right of researchers to apply to or participate in EU research programmes and the future of UK access to these programmes is an important issue which we will address during our negotiation.

**07 Sep 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 44876**

### [Universities](#)

**Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim**

To ask the Secretary of State for Education, what assessment she has made of the effect of the outcome of the EU referendum on the long-term ability of universities to maintain current levels of educational provision; and if she will make a statement.

**Answering member: Joseph Johnson | Department for Education**

The UK has some of the best universities and researchers in the world, and international students, academics and researchers play a significant part in that success. The impacts of the decision to leave the EU on universities will depend on a number of factors including the timing of

the UK's exit from the EU and the details of our future relationship with the EU. Those are decisions for the new Prime Minister. The UK remains a member of the EU, and we continue to meet our obligations and receive relevant funding.

**01 Aug 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 42512**

[Brexit: UK Universities](#)

**Asked by: Baroness Eccles of Moulton**

My Lords, I thank the noble Viscount for his reply. He will appreciate that uncertainty is immensely unhelpful and unsettling. What have the Government actually done so far to reassure those in the university and academic research sectors, who have benefited from our current relationship with Europe?

**Answering member: Viscount Younger of Leckie**

I certainly recognise that a degree of anxiety is arising from the universities and research community, which is understandable. Perhaps I can give some reassurance that since the referendum result was received, the Minister for Universities and Science, Jo Johnson, issued an initial statement as early as 29 June and has talked to many academic institutions and stakeholders about their concerns. Both the Government and the Student Loans Company took immediate steps to publish information for students and the wider higher education sector on their websites, which included information on EU nationals and student finance in England, and a focus on EU student and staff status.

**20 Jul 2016 | Oral answers to questions | House of Lords | House of Lords chamber | 774 c643**

[Research: EU Grants and Loans](#)

**Asked by: Zeichner, Daniel**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what representations the Minister of State for Universities and Science has made to his European counterparts since the EU referendum on access to EU research grants for UK researchers.

**Answering member: Joseph Johnson | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear, while the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU funding and collaboration arrangements continue unchanged, including those that apply to students, researchers, and businesses. I am in close contact with Commissioner Moedas on the topic of Horizon 2020 funding, and I met with the Italian Minister for Education, Universities and Research on 11 July.

The UK is world-class in research and innovation and we play a leading role in major European and international collaboration, including ESA and CERN.

**20 Jul 2016 | Written questions | House of Commons | 42202**

[Research](#)

**Asked by: Zeichner, Daniel**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the immediate effect of the vote to leave the EU on UK research (a) in general and (b) funding.

**Answering member: Joseph Johnson | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy**

As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has made clear, while the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU funding and collaboration arrangements continue unchanged, including those that apply to students, researchers, and businesses. I am in close contact with Commissioner Moedas on the topic of Horizon 2020 funding, and I met with the Italian Minister for Education, Universities and Research on 11 July.

The UK is world-class in research and innovation and we play a leading role in major European and international collaboration, including ESA and CERN.

**20 Jul 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 42196**

[Research: Finance](#)

**Asked by: Lord Cromwell**

To ask Her Majesty's Government how much EU funding is currently accessible by UK universities and research bodies; and what assessment they have made of the impact of the referendum on the UK's membership of the EU on (1) such funding in the future, and (2) UK universities' and research bodies' ability to develop and sustain world-class research and educational programmes.

**Answering member: Baroness Neville-Rolfe | Department for Business, Innovation and Skills**

The main streams of funds available to UK universities and research bodies are Horizon 2020, Erasmus Plus and aspects of the European Structural and Investment Funds.

Under Horizon 2020, the current Framework Programme, the UK has been awarded €1.84bn to date [1] (excluding the Euratom nuclear research and training programme).

In 2014, the first year of the Erasmus Plus Programme, the UK obtained €79.08 million for mobility grants to 36,734 people from all educational

sectors to study, train and volunteer abroad. A further €30.66m was obtained for cooperation projects <sup>[2]</sup>.

The UK's strategy <sup>[3]</sup> for its 2014-2020 allocations from the European Structural and Investment Funds sets out that €1.6bn was earmarked for the theme of research, technological development and innovation.

As the Prime Minister has made clear, while the UK remains a member of the EU, current EU funding arrangements continue unchanged, including those that apply to students, researchers, and businesses. It will be for the Government under the new Prime Minister to begin the negotiation to leave, and set out arrangements for those currently in receipt of EU funds.

The UK economy is fundamentally strong and our research and innovation are world leading. The Government intends to maintain and enhance the strength of our research base.

1. UK participation in H2020 and FP7, BIS occasional (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-participation-in-horizon-2020-and-framework-programme-7>)
2. Ref: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/organisation/press/british-council-ecorys-uk-delighted-win-erasmus>.
3. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/368808/bis-14-1179-united-kingdom-partnership-agreement-part-one.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/368808/bis-14-1179-united-kingdom-partnership-agreement-part-one.pdf)

**15 Jul 2016 | Written questions | Answered | House of Lords | HL1010**

## Statements

### [Autumn Statement](#)

HC Deb 23 Nov 2016 c899-944

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said:

We do not invest enough in research, development and innovation. As the pace of technology advances and competition from the rest of the world increases, we must build on our strengths in science and tech innovation to ensure that the next generation of discoveries is not only made here, but developed and produced in Britain. So today I can confirm the additional investment in R and D, rising to an extra £2 billion per year by 2020-21, that was announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on Monday (c902).

## Debates

### Westminster Hall Debate

[Exiting the EU: Higher Education](#)

HC Deb 23 Nov 2016 c331-354WH

### House of Lords Debate

[Brexit: Impact on Universities and Scientific Research](#)

HL Deb 2 Nov 2016, Vol 776 c771-824

## Select Committees

### House of Commons

House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, [EU regulation of the life sciences](#), First Report of Session 2016–17, HC 158, 11 June 2016

House of Commons Science and Technology Committee [Leaving the EU: implications and opportunities for science and research](#), Seventh Report of Session, 2016–17, HC 502, 18 November 2016

The report concluded that in the short term

The Government has provided helpful reassurance to the science and research community by promising to underwrite the payment of EU grants extending beyond the point at which the UK leaves the European Union. However welcome this announcement is, it does not appear to represent a significant new financial investment, given that the EU itself apparently has a legal commitment to honour these payments. [page 26]

In the longer term:

There is a need for the Government to articulate an ambitious vision for science that goes beyond continuing to be 'open for business' and generally seeking "a positive outcome" from leaving the EU. At this stage it may not be possible to articulate the detail of how any vision for science after-Brexit will be achieved, but a more ambitious statement would provide greater reassurance in the current climate of uncertainty. [page 27]

### House of Lords

House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee 2nd Report of Session 2015–16 [EU membership and UK science](#), HL Paper 127, 20 April 2016

House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee Enquiry [EU membership and UK science follow-up](#)

[Oral evidence 25 October 2016](#) Jo Johnson, MP (Minister of State, BEIS) and Gareth Davies (BEIS)

## 5. Further Reading

### House of Commons Library

Briefing paper [Support for Science](#) 23 November 2016

Debate Pack [Effect of exiting the EU on higher education](#) 23 Nov 2016

### Universities UK

[Website](#)

[Brexit and UK universities](#)

[Facts and Statistics](#)

### Research Councils UK

[Website](#)

### London School of Economics

Ann Corbett [But we can't do it alone: the future of British universities post-Brexit](#) 21 September 2016

### Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

[Research and development](#)

### Department for Education

[Website](#)

Jo Johnson MP: [Speech to Universities UK annual conference 2016](#)  
8 September 2016

### Department for Exiting the European Union

[Website](#)

Letter: [EU Funding](#) from David Gauke MP, Chef Secretary to HM Treasury to: Rt Hon David Davis MP, Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, 12 August 2016

### European Commission

[Horizon 2020: The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation](#) [downloaded 12 December 2016]

### Erasmus programme

[Website](#) [downloaded 12 December 2016]

## DEBATE PACK

Number CDP 2016/0252  
Debate Day: 19 December  
2016

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