

## UKRI Roundtables on the UK Government R&D Roadmap:

### Summary of Discussions

This is a note of two roundtable discussions held to understand views on the government's R&D Roadmap, published on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020. The roundtables were hosted by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and held under the Chatham House rule.

- **R&D Roadmap:** the government's commitment to, and ambition for, research and innovation in the UK's future prosperity was strongly welcomed and endorsed by all participants. It will be important to build on the body of recent work, such as that on the Industrial Strategy, to create a firm action plan and timeline to achieve the vision set out in the Roadmap. Rapid action on this front is needed to create clarity for the sector.
- **A whole-systems approach** will be vital to realise the ambition of the Roadmap. This includes creating funding models that support the full research and innovation system including discovery research, applied and targeted research development, adoption and procurement, taking a long-term approach that encompasses education and training, diversity, lifelong learning and career development, and developing local economies and infrastructure across the whole of the UK.
- **A research and innovation system for all:** there should be recognition of the full breadth of skills and experience needed for the UK's research and innovation system to prosper. The research and innovation community should engage the public and wider society in unlocking the potential of the Roadmap, empowering all people to drive forward the UK's research agenda and building trust in the endeavour.
- **A more inclusive national approach to research and innovation:** a clear focus of discussion concerned the responsibility for ensuring that the benefits of a stronger research and innovation system were co-created with, and experienced by, everyone in the UK.
- **The role of UKRI:** both workshops suggested a clear opportunity for UKRI to provide leadership across a number of challenges in the current research and innovation system as we start to build back from the COVID-19 pandemic. UKRI was encouraged to play a whole-systems stewardship role that supports diversity of approach but creates a unity of purpose. There was also support for UKRI playing a lead role in driving improvements in research culture, tackling funding complexity and improving support for innovation. Equally important will be UKRI's convening role in speaking to lesser heard voices and bringing the sector together as a whole to:
  - Establish shared goals, co-develop solutions and identify levers to drive the change needed across the research and innovation ecosystem;
  - Tackle regional imbalance by co-developing the vision for local excellence and innovation and helping to build the necessary growth and capacity;
  - Extend the reach of these conversations to the public and civic society to build two-way engagement and buy-in to shape the national research and innovation agenda; and
  - Amplify the sector's voice back into government, encouraging connectivity and buy-in to the Roadmap across all parts of government policy to deliver better outcomes for the whole of society.

## Participants 07 July

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**Steve Bates**, CEO  
BioIndustry Association

**Felicity Burch**, Director, Innovation and  
Digital  
Confederation of British industries

**Paul Clarke**, Chief Technology Officer  
Ocado

**Professor Ian Greer**, Vice Chancellor  
Queen's University Belfast

**Sam Laidlaw**, Chair  
National Centre for Universities and  
Businesses

**Sarah Lee**, BBSRC Early Career Researcher  
Group  
University of Birmingham

**Emma Lindsell**, Executive Director for  
Strategy, Performance and Engagement  
UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

**Professor Sir Anton Muscatelli**, Chair  
Russell Group

**Hetan Shah**, CEO  
British Academy

**Dr Rebekah Widdowfield**, CEO  
Royal Society of Edinburgh

**David Wong**, Senior Technology &  
Innovation Manager  
Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders

## Participants 14 July

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**Julian David**, CEO  
techUK

**Professor Chris Day**, Chair  
N8 Research Partnership

**Chris Hale**, Director of Policy  
Universities UK

**Professor Richard Jones**, Chair in Material  
Physics and Innovation Policy  
University of Manchester

**Dr Sarah Main**, Executive Director  
Campaign for Science and Engineering

**Professor Alan Miller**, CEO  
Scottish Universities Physics Alliance (SUPA)

**Dr Venki Ramakrishnan**, President  
Royal Society

**Isobel Stephen**, Executive Director for  
Strategy, Performance and Engagement  
UKRI

**Professor Hywel Thomas**, President  
Learned Society for Wales

**Dr Beth Thompson**, Head of UK & EU  
Policy,  
Wellcome

**Jenny Tooth**, CEO  
UK Business Angels Association

**Charles Wood**, Head of New Energy Service  
and Heat  
Energy UK

**Dr Andy Wright**, Director of Strategic  
Technology  
BAE Systems

The roundtables were Chaired by **Professor Dame Ottoline Leyser**, CEO, UKRI