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Dear Darren,

FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE HORIZON EUROPE GUARANTEE

As you are aware in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed in December 2020 the UK and EU agreed the UK's association to EU Programmes (including Horizon Europe). UK association could not be finalised at the point of signing the TCA as underpinning EU legislation was not in place at that time. That legislation has now been in place for more than 18 months, and the EU has still not finalised our association.

The Government continues to push for association but our priority remains supporting the UK R&D sector both by providing the funding guarantee for existing applications and if needed a package of alternative support, including for international collaboration as set out in July. In November 2021, the Government announced a guarantee for the first wave of eligible, successful applicants to Horizon Europe. In March and September 2022, the Government extended the guarantee to cover a second and third wave of eligible, successful applicants, covering calls until the end of this year.

The Government has today (19 December 2022) announced a further extension to the support provided to Horizon Europe applicants. The extension will ensure that eligible, successful UK applicants will continue to be guaranteed funding, supporting them to continue their important work in research and innovation. The guarantee will now be in place to cover all Horizon Europe calls that close on or before 31st March 2023. Eligible, successful applicants to Horizon Europe will receive the full value of their funding at their UK host institution for the lifetime of their grant. Successful awardees do not need to leave the UK to receive this funding, which will provide reassurance for future collaborations, and support UK researchers whether association is confirmed, or otherwise.

It remains the government's preference to associate to EU programmes, but we cannot wait forever. Earlier this year we [published](#) details of alternatives proposals which we will implement in the event that association is no longer possible. Further details of these plans will be published shortly.

If we are unable to associate, we will fund applications that are submitted to a Horizon Europe funding call with an EU final call deadline date before the point of non-association, are successful in the EU evaluation and meet the eligibility criteria of the guarantee. This would pick up where the current guarantee has left off, so there is no gap, and no eligible successful applications would go unfunded.

Details regarding the scope and terms of the extension are available on the [UKRI website](#). We will of course keep the committee informed of any further developments.

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE FREEMAN MP
Minister for Science, Research and Innovation