



Science and Technology Committee

27 Feb 2023

**Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and
Technology
(by e-mail only)**

Dear Michelle,

Following the release of the Central Government Supply Estimates 2022-23, the Science and Technology Committee were concerned to see that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has returned £1.6 billion of funds to the Treasury that had been allocated to Horizon Europe and Euratom association.

In March 2022, when the largest ever budget for research & development was [announced](#), the Government said that if the UK was unable to associate to Horizon Europe, "the funding allocated to Horizon association will go to UK government R&D programmes, including those to support new international partnerships". The ring-fencing of the £6.8 billion total budget for Horizon Europe association was also [confirmed](#) to us by Nusrat Ghani MP in oral evidence on 12 October 2022, who at the time was the Minister for Science and Investment Security. It is therefore concerning to see that some of this money has been returned to the Treasury, especially considering the reiteration on several occasions from Government that this budget was ring-fenced for R&D.

Given the importance to the science and innovation community of increases to the R&D budget, and the focus of the new Department on "optimising public R&D investment to support areas of relative UK strength and increase the level of private R&D to make our economy the most innovative in the world", we would like to invite you to write to us to confirm whether the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology expects to be re-allocated the £1.6 billion funds at the upcoming budget, and to set out how you expect this money to be spent.

We would be grateful for your response by Monday 6 March 2023. As is usual with the Committee's correspondence, I will place this letter and your response in the public domain.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Clark".

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair

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