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Dear Lord Kinnoull

**THE UK GOVERNMENT'S ALTERNATIVE OFFER TO HORIZON EUROPE,
COPERNICUS AND EURATOM**

I have taken note of your letter of 6 July 2022 to the Foreign Secretary on the UK's participation in the Horizon Europe programme. I am pleased to confirm that today my department will publish details of how the UK will transition to a new R&D programme, should the EU's delays to our association to Horizon Europe continue.

As you know, the UK remains ready to associate to Horizon, Copernicus, Euratom Research & Training, and Fusion for Energy as was agreed in December 2020 through the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). Yet we have seen persistent delays from the EU in finalising our association, which is causing significant uncertainty for both UK and EU researchers and industry.

The UK has taken unprecedented steps to support the UK and EU R&D sectors throughout this period, but time is running out. The Government has made clear that if the EU does not finalise the UK's association soon, the funding allocated to Horizon Europe association will go to new R&D programmes instead. Today, I am pleased to provide reassurance to our R&D sector by setting out details of our transitional measures and an overview of our longer-term alternative plans.

Our proposed package of transitional measures will keep funding flowing to researchers and industry based in the UK while longer-term measures are established. It includes the Guarantee which is already in operation. It would also include support for successful current applicants, uplifts to existing prestigious UK talent and innovation schemes and funding for research institutions most affected by the loss of Horizon Europe's talent funding. We would ensure continued access to multi-lateral partnerships in Horizon Europe through Third Country Participation to allow important UK-EU collaborations to continue.

It is also disappointing that it has not yet proven possible for the UK to associate to the other three programmes in scope of the TCA: Euratom R&T, Fusion for Energy, and Copernicus. Associating to these programmes provides clear benefits to the UK, the EU and Rest of World partners. We are also developing a comprehensive plan of alternatives to these programmes, including interim measures, and will release details of these measures in due course.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy