



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

14 April 2023

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Sir Adrian,

Thank you for you and your co-signatories' letters of 1 and 3 March, regarding UK association to Horizon Europe. I apologise for the delayed response.

I also welcome your support for the Windsor Framework, a significant turning point for Northern Ireland. I am hopeful that we can now move forward and create a brighter future together.

The UK's roots lie in innovation, ingenuity, and ambition. We are one of the top three countries in the world to invest in and I am proud of our reputation as a leader in life sciences, digital technologies and renewable energy. We have a burgeoning space industry and well-developed capabilities in designing and building satellites. We were the first country in the world to approve a COVID-19 vaccine and have multiple thriving unicorns and decacorns. I want the UK to become a science and technology superpower and I am pleased that you share this ambition of mine.

Science and business are two of the oldest fields of human endeavour. The evolving relationship between them is catalytic, each driving, informing and supporting the other. I recognise that EU programmes such as Horizon Europe, Copernicus and Euratom have funded research projects across the country, boosted job creation and facilitated investment in UK industries. In March, the UK Government announced a further extension of the financial guarantee provided to the UK's Horizon Europe applicants until 30 June 2023. Successful eligible bids for calls closing on or before 30 June will continue to be guaranteed funding, therefore helping support research and innovation.

As you will know, we are discussing association to Horizon Europe with the EU. Our preference is for these negotiations to be concluded successfully and I am pleased that the Secretary of State for the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology recently met with the EU Commissioner. It is important to note that UK association would need to be on the basis of a good deal for our researchers, businesses and taxpayers. If the UK is unable to secure association on fair and appropriate terms, we will implement Pioneer – an ambitious, domestic alternative. If it is required, Pioneer will ensure that the UK continues to attract the top talent, lead multilateral collaborations and has access to world class research infrastructure. Our recently unveiled prospectus sets out how we will support, protect and grow brilliant UK sectors such as science, technology and R&D, and I am also pleased that researchers and businesses across the country are helping shape and develop Pioneer.

The Chancellor laid out various measures in the Spring Budget in support of the UK's science and technology superpower ambition. These include launching an AI sandbox, which will trial new and faster approaches to help put cutting-edge products into the market.

Moreover, 12 new Investment Zones, partnerships between local government and a university or research institute across the length and breadth of the country, will help catalyse new innovation clusters and have access to £80 million of support. To ensure that the UK becomes the global centre for developing cutting-edge medicines and devices, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency will set up a swift new approval process.

I am determined for the UK to realise its science superpower ambition and am grateful for your support on this matter.

Thank you, once again, for writing to me and please do share this response with your co-signatories.

Yours sincerely,  
Rishi