



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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Dear Baroness Donaghy,

Thank you for sharing the Committee's report.

As the Minister with lead responsibility for research and development (R&D), I will be carefully considering the parts of the report which pertain to R&D. Erasmus+ is led by the Department for Education, and I understand the Minister for Universities has written to you separately to address your points about mobility.

The importance that the Committee places on an outward looking R&D sector resonates strongly with the Government's vision of the UK as a global science superpower. The Government recognises the benefits of a strong research and development (R&D) sector to the UK economy and is firmly committed to collaborating internationally on scientific research.

The Committee's report highlights the UK's future relationship with the EU, particularly whether the UK will associate to Horizon Europe. As you are aware, negotiations to associate to EU R&D programmes are ongoing. In July we published the R&D Roadmap that set out our aim to maintain a close and friendly relationship with our European partners, seeking to agree a fair and balanced deal for participation in EU R&D programmes. We will make a final decision once it is clear whether such terms can be reached.

As negotiations are on-going, I will respond to your detailed comments once we know whether the UK will associate to Horizon Europe.

If we do not associate to Horizon Europe, we will put in place ambitious alternative schemes from January 2021 and address the funding gap, as outlined in the R&D Roadmap. Alternatives to Horizon Europe, if required, will address discovery, or 'curiosity-led' research, global collaboration and innovation.

The Committee's report noted concerns about whether UK organisations will be able to participate in collaborative projects open to Third Countries going forward. Let me reassure you that, whatever the outcome of negotiations, it is our aim that UK organisations and entities continue to participate in Horizon Europe collaborative projects open to third countries, as well as in wider international collaborations.

The Committee's report also highlighted the need for a future R&D funding landscape which works for the whole of the UK. BEIS officials are meeting regularly with the Devolved Administrations, National Academies and UKRI to develop our alternative

plans, which if required, will enable world class collaborative research and innovation, and benefit the whole of the UK.

I will keep the Committee informed of our future R&D plans.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Solloway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

AMANDA SOLLOWAY MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State – Minister for Science, Research & Innovation