

Pete Wishart MP  
Chair of Scottish Affairs Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

20 March 2024

Dear Mr Wishart

Thank you for inviting me to give evidence to your Committee on behalf of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), as part of the Committee's inquiry into '*Science and Scotland*'. Following my appearance in front of your Committee on 4 March, I committed to provide further information in writing on two points.

#### Long-term funding for Independent Research Organisations (IROs)

UKRI recognises the important role IROs play in the UK's research and innovation institutional landscape. This is reflected in our strategy - Transforming Tomorrow Together, and that to date over 70 IROs are eligible for UKRI funding, including National Museums of Scotland, Moredun Research Institute, the James Hutton Institute and Historic Environment Scotland.

All research organisations have a responsibility to maintain a grant portfolio that is aligned to their strategic mission and is affordable considering their other sources of income, which may include long-term funding from their parent or sponsor department.

Our competitive grant awards at 80% of the full economic cost (FEC) ensure that the organisations we fund are strategically invested in the competitive awards they win. Working closely with Government, UKRI ensures the FEC framework applies equally and consistently across the landscape.

While UKRI is not responsible for the long-term funding of Scottish IROs, we are committed to the principles behind the UK's dual support system for research funding which involves research-performing organisations receiving recurrent funding through block grants.

For universities in Scotland this is through the Research Excellent Grant provided by the Scottish Funding Council (universities in England receive Quality Related research funding through Research England). For other types of research organisation, such as research institutes and public-sector research establishments, this is often provided through core-funding from their sponsor department or funder.

These block grants allow research-performing organisations to deliver on their research strategies, targeting funds at their priorities in an agile way, complimenting competitively won awards for projects from UKRI or other funders.

#### Additional data on funding applications in comparison to population size

The tables below present 'place-based implication' values on metrics such as the:

- contribution of research and innovation (R&I) investment to Gross Value Added (GVA)
- spend on R&I per head of population in Scotland.

The tables show the ranking for Scotland on these metrics against the 12 International Territorial Level 1 (ITL1)<sup>1</sup> regions for the UK where comparisons are possible.

Table 1: 'place-based implication' values (FY2020 to 21)

|                                  | <b>UKRI data for Scotland</b> | <b>Scotland's rank against all 12 UK ITL1 Regions</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Total UKRI spend                 | £396m                         | 5                                                     |
| UKRI Spend as a % of a local GVA | 0.28%                         | 6                                                     |
| UKRI Spend per head population   | £79                           | 5                                                     |

Table 2: Local impact values associated with R&I investment by Research Councils (FY2020 to 21)

|                                              | <b>UKRI RC data for Scotland</b> | <b>Scotland's rank against all 12 UK ITL1 Regions</b> |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Research Council (RC) spend            | £329m                            | 4                                                     |
| Research Council spend as a % of a local GVA | 0.24%                            | 3                                                     |
| Research Council spend per head population   | £66                              | 4                                                     |
| Research Council funding per researcher      | £11,402                          | 5                                                     |

Table 3: Local impact values associated with R&I investment by Innovate UK (FY 2020 to 21)

|                                           | <b>UKRI Innovate UK data for Scotland</b> | <b>Scotland's rank against all 12 UK ITL1 Regions</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Total Innovate UK spend                   | £62m                                      | 7                                                     |
| Innovate UK spend as a % of a local GVA   | 0.04%                                     | 7                                                     |
| Innovate UK spend per head population     | £12                                       | 9                                                     |
| Innovate UK spend per business            | £181                                      | 9                                                     |
| Innovate UK spend per R&D active business | £13,502                                   | 8                                                     |

These data demonstrate that Scotland performs consistently in the upper half of all the UK's ITL1 regions, in terms of UKRI's overall investment against the metrics shown here.

Should the Committee be interested in comparing Scotland's figures to the other ITL1 Regions, the [Geographical distribution of UKRI spend report](#) presents data on research councils, Innovate UK and Research England funding covering the majority of UKRI's activities.

<sup>1</sup> The 12 UK ITL1 regions of the UK are: North East, Northern Ireland, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, East Midlands, West Midlands, East of England, London, Scotland, South East, South West, and Wales.

The publication maps the distribution of R&I spend across the country and contextualises the concentrations of different types of UKRI funding.

I do hope the information above is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Corner', enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

Dame Jessica Corner FMedSci, MAE, RN  
Executive Chair for Research England, part of UK Research and Innovation