



Science, Innovation
and Technology
Committee

Lord Patrick Vallance
Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

By email only

22 July 2025

Subject: Global Talent Fund

Dear Patrick,

I am writing regarding the government's announcement on Friday 18th July naming 12 universities and research institutions that have been selected to deliver the Global Talent Fund, which aims to attract researchers to the UK in the government's priority sectors.

I would be grateful if you could share more detail on the process through which these were selected, as there is little information beyond the press release noting that each has a "track record of recruiting and supporting top international R&D talent, as well as securing international competitive research funding". I was concerned to see that no institutions in the north of England were selected for funding, despite the government's focus on ensuring every region realises its full potential.

I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

- What were the criteria for selecting these institutions to receive this funding?
- Why has no institution in England north of Birmingham been selected?
- Was the scheme devised with 12 institutions in mind, or were these the only ones that met the government's criteria?
- What oversight will the government have over the spending of the Global Talent Fund by these institutions?
- Has the government received estimates from the institutions on how they intend to spend the fund?
- Has the government made an estimate on how much of the fund will be spent on visa costs?
- Professor Christopher Smith, International Champion at UKRI, mentions antimicrobial resistance as a global challenge in the government press release – do recent cuts to overseas development aid and the resulting cuts to



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programmes, such as the Fleming Fund, undermine the goals of the Global Talent Fund?

I would be grateful if you could reply by 6th August. I intend to place this letter, and your response, in the public domain.

With best wishes,

Chi Onwurah MP

Chair – Science, Innovation and Technology Committee