Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

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Dame Chi Onwurah
Chair of the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
Commons Select Committee
House of Commons
SW1A 0PW

28 May 2026

Dear Dame Chi Onwurah,

I would like to thank the House of Commons Science, Innovation and Technology Select Committee for your report published on 13 March 2026, following your inquiry into innovation, growth and the regions.

I am grateful for the Committee's thoughtful recommendations around the role of the UK's innovation ecosystem in supporting economic growth across the country, and I enclose the government's response to the report.

The government is making a record £86 billion investment in research and development (R&D) over the Spending Review period to support the continued growth of this ecosystem, with investment through UKRI higher than ever before. This funding will drive innovation and create new jobs across every region of the UK. In deploying this investment, we are adopting a new outcome-focused approach, ensuring that resources are directed to where they will deliver the greatest impact across the country.

The Committee rightly highlights the critical role that innovation plays in driving regional growth across the UK, and we welcome the Committee's recommendations to go further in developing innovation ecosystems and clusters. We strongly agree that clusters of innovation excellence emerge through sustained and coordinated investment, and we have ambitious plans to support their continued growth in partnership with local leaders.

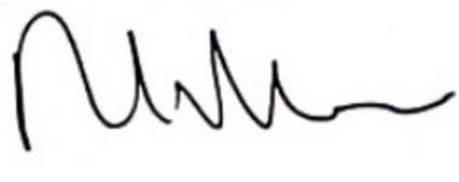
The government is taking forward work to improve reporting, impact tracking and analytical capability across the innovation system to ensure we have clear and reliable data at both the regional and national levels. This complements our programme of policies and reforms across a wide range of levers in the innovation ecosystem, including fiscal devolution, skills initiatives, access to finance, infrastructure, regulation and procurement.

Given the cross-cutting nature of the recommendations, our response includes contributions from across government, including the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the Department for Business and Trade, the Department for Education, His Majesty's Treasury and the Cabinet Office.

I look forward to continued engagement with your Committee on science, innovation and technology policy.

Yours sincerely,

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE



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