



Science, Innovation
and Technology
Committee

Tom Adeyoola
Executive Chair
Innovate UK

By email only

29 July 2026

Follow-up to oral evidence on the work of Innovate UK

Dear Tom,

Thank you for giving evidence to the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee on Tuesday 14 July. As you know, the committee is supportive of and interested in Innovate UK's mission and unanimously endorsed your appointment as Executive Chair in April 2025.

In our report following your pre-appointment hearing we said that IUK needed a:

clear vision and purpose – particularly in the face of rising global challenges around technology and trade, as well as the UK's changing relationship with the EU. We hope that Mr Adeyoola can provide this direction... [and] call on him – with the support of the relevant ministers and others – to move quickly to set clear metrics for success in his term during his crucial first few months in the role.

Whilst IUK has published a prospectus confirming an intention to become “more deliberate about what technologies, sectors and businesses we support”, and you described your long-term vision for reorienting the agency towards six of the eight priority sectors identified in the government's modern industrial strategy; we are concerned that our call for clear metrics, outcomes and KPIs has yet to be answered.

We are also concerned that the reorientation of IUK towards the priority sectors identified in the modern industrial strategy may come at the expense of much-needed support for the UK's clusters of firms, research institutions, skills, and related industries that benefit from proximity, collaboration, and a clear signal that private investment will not only be welcomed but actively facilitated by those responsible for public R&D spending. We first raised these concerns in our *Flying blind: innovation, growth and the*



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regions report, and believe that more can and should be done to support current and future clusters across the UK.

You told us that in September, the publication of comprehensive delivery plans would provide the detailed metrics and means to assess the impact of the approximately £4 billion allocated to IUK over the current Spending Review period. In light of the recent changes to the machinery of government, I would be grateful if you could confirm that your planned publication timetable for these delivery plans remains the same.

Whilst September will be a full 15 months after the then-Chancellor announced an £86 billion R&D spending settlement that “will mean local leaders have government backing to develop ‘innovation clusters’ across the country, to unlock the talent and opportunity in every region and nation”, we look forward to scrutinising these plans when they are published; and expect to invite you back to the committee to discuss the details in the coming months.

Before then, during our 14 July session you committed to provide further information on a number of matters. The committee would be grateful for a written response to each of the points below:

- metrics for increasing the return on investment in companies across each of the industrial strategy sectors (Q13);
- a year-by-year breakdown of IUK’s budget allocation for the remainder of the Spending Review period (Q39-41); and
- confirmation that the delivery plans promised for September will include granular data detailing IUK’s allocations by regional cluster (Q71-74).

I would be grateful if you could reply by **Friday 21 August**. I intend to place this letter, and your response, in the public domain. I have copied the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade and the Chief Executive of UKRI.

With best wishes,

Dame Chi Onwurah MP

Chair – Science, Innovation and Technology Committee