

The Lord Patel KT  
Science and Technology Committee Chair,  
House of Lords,  
London  
SW1A 0PW

26 April 2021

**amrc**  
ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL RESEARCH CHARITIES

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Dear Lord Patel,

I am writing from the Association of Medical Research Charities to thank you for your committee's inquiry into funding issues facing UK R&D and your recent letter to the Prime Minister. Since your last call for evidence, we can now share new data on the impact Covid-19 has had on charity-funded medical research over the last year. Following the initial projections made in spring 2020, the picture one year on looks as bleak as feared.

As you will know, there are still no clear Government support mechanisms for charity funded medical research. Charity-funded medical research has not been eligible for support from the £750 million support package and the Sustaining University Research Expertise (SURE) package is not a viable long-term solution for charities.

The data pulled out below highlights what this lack of support has meant in practice for medical research charities. It also features as part of our latest infographic, which we have attached to this letter. The impact of Covid-19, compounded by Government inaction, has threatened serious discontinuity for UK research:

*Fundraising income for charities funding medical research has plummeted as a result of COVID-19*

- In 2020-21, two in three AMRC charities experienced a **drop in income, amounting to a loss of at least £292 million.**

*There has been a significant impact on charity-funded research in universities and clinical research.*

- **Charity research funding has dropped by £270 million** since the pandemic started
- At the height of the 1st lockdown, 70% of members' **clinical trials and studies funded were stopped, paused or delayed. And over 20% remain so today.**
- 32% of AMRC charities have had to cancel or delay new research projects that are crucial to developing new treatments.
- **One in two AMRC charities plan to cut their research spend** over the next year, by an average of 37%.
- 56% of AMRC charities will have to cancel or delay funding for early career researchers and skilled research roles.

Charities are doing everything they can to honour existing commitments to research projects and researchers. For many, this will mean sacrificing future commitments. Urgent financial support at scale is still needed from Government.

We know that there can be no allocation announcements until the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, following the local election purdah period, but expect them to arrive soon after following the Business

**amrc**

Secretary's comments to your committee last month. We believe there may still be time to persuade the Government to provide support.

Last week, I gave evidence to the Commons Science & Technology Select Committee, during which the Chair, Greg Clark MP, undertook to pursue the issue of charities' funding crisis. We would appreciate any help you can give in raising this with Government. I would also be pleased to meet with you or give evidence in any further hearings your committee may hold to discuss the difficulties facing charity-funded research in more detail.

Kind regards

Hilary Reynolds CBE

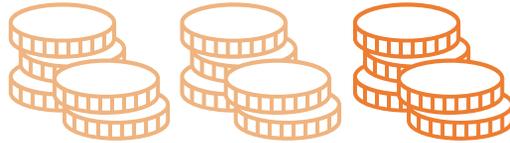
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hilary Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Chief Executive  
Association of Medical Research Charities

## COVID-19: One year on for medical research charities

### Medical research charity income has been hit hard

2 in 3



AMRC charities experienced a drop in income in 2020-21, amounting to a loss of at least £292 million.

### Charities have been forced to drastically cut research funding

£270 million



in charity research funding has been cut since the pandemic started. This drop is 7x greater than after the 2008 recession.

32%



of AMRC charities have had to cancel or delay research projects that are crucial to developing new treatments.

### The future of research is at risk

To honour existing commitments to research projects and researchers, charities have had to dig into precious reserves and sacrifice funding for new research projects.

56%



of AMRC charities will have to cancel or delay funding for early career researchers and skilled research roles.

1 in 2



AMRC charities plan to cut their research spend over the next year, by an average of 37%, amounting to over £148 million

3+ years



will pass before charity research spend returns to normal levels, which will set vital medical progress back decades.