



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
scitechcom@parliament.uk / 020 7219 2792

From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair

Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
(By e-mail)

23 July 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

R&D public investment

I welcome the publication yesterday of the Government's Innovation Strategy, which rightly underlined the importance of science and innovation to our security, wellbeing and prosperity now and in the future.

However, I was concerned that although the strategy referenced the Government's commitment to invest £22 billion in R&D per year, there was no date attached to that commitment. The Government has previously been clear that this level of investment would be achieved by the end of the Parliament in 2024/5, including in [Budget 2020](#), the [2021 R&D Roadmap](#) and by you in [evidence to the Committee](#) in March of this year (Q232). It would be a paradoxical and retrograde step if a new Innovation Strategy, designed to advance the UK's status as a "science superpower", had downgraded the Government's commitment to invest in science and innovation during this Parliament.

I would therefore be grateful if you could:

- confirm that it remains the Government's firm intention to meet the £22 billion commitment in 2024/25; and
- if this is no longer the firm intention of the Government I would be grateful if you could set out:
 - when the Government's intention changed; and
 - why the Government changed the date of achieving this commitment.

I would be grateful if you could provide us with this information by Monday 9 August. As is usual with the Committee's correspondence, I will place this letter and your response in the public domain.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg".

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair