



# Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA  
[scitechcom@parliament.uk](mailto:scitechcom@parliament.uk) / 020 7219 2792

From Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair

Sir Andrew Mackenzie  
Chair, UKRI  
(By e-mail)

21 October 2021

Dear Sir Andrew,

## **R&D investment**

Thank you for taking the time to give evidence to the Science and Technology Committee yesterday. As we heard in the evidence session, research and innovation benefits society as a whole, and public investment plays a crucial role to leveraging private investment and maximising the public benefits.

We are at a critical moment now for research and innovation and there is great uncertainty about whether previously announced Government commitments in relation to increasing R&D investment to £22 billion by 2024/25 and to spend 2.4% of GDP on R&D by 2027 remain the ambition. To reach these targets action and investment is needed now—that's why the Spending Review and Budget next week are vital.

We are glad to hear you are having meetings at the highest level this week, and hope you will use these to make it very clear that the commitments that the Government has made need to be met, and that a consistent and dependable funding trajectory is crucial for vital research projects to be undertaken—most of which extend over several years—and for private sector investors to have the confidence to commit to funding over the medium and long term themselves.

The wider research community is understandably anxious about what will be announced in the Spending Review and Budget. Having been appointed Chair of UKRI, our Committee looks to you to stand up for what is required by UKRI and by UK science and research. This may involve some challenging, robust and forensic discussions with Ministers and officials in these final days to secure the public investment needed. In this context, we were concerned by the implications of your statement to the Committee that "I do want them to realise that I will be a loyal servant".

As is usual with the Committee's correspondence I will place this letter in the public domain.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Clark".

**Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**  
*Chair*