



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

George Freeman MP
Minister for Science, Research &
Innovation
Department for Business,
Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

Darren Jones MP
Chair of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

29 November 2021

Dear Darren,

HORIZON EUROPE GUARANTEE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE UK's R&D SECTOR

I am pleased to confirm that today my department is announcing a guarantee to provide a financial safety net for successful UK applicants to Horizon Europe, whilst we push to formalise our association as soon as possible.

As you will know, we agreed terms for association under the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). When the TCA was agreed in December 2020, the UK and EU signed a Joint Declaration on Participation in Union Programmes and Access to Programme Services. This set out the parties' shared commitment for the UK to associate to **Horizon Europe** alongside **Euratom R&T**, **Fusion for Energy** and **Copernicus** at the earliest opportunity. The Government remains committed to securing this outcome so that research collaboration can continue, and we stand ready to formalise our association, but disappointingly there have been persistent delays from the EU, which has led to uncertainty for the UK sector and their European partners.

Horizon Europe has become an important programme for UK research scientists. UK and EU researchers and businesses have a long history of successful collaboration. As Europe's leading R&D and science centre with world class universities, scientists and innovators, the UK will bring a significant amount to the Programme. Further delays will benefit neither the EU nor the UK.

The Government's priority remains association to Horizon Europe. UK researchers, businesses and innovators have been able to apply to calls as 'Associated Candidates' since early 2021. So to provide reassurance to UK -based applicants, the Government has decided to guarantee funding for the first wave of eligible, successful applicants to Horizon Europe who have been unable to sign grant agreements with the EU.

The guarantee is a short-term measure intended to address the continued delays from the EU to formalise the UK's association to Horizon Europe. The funding will be

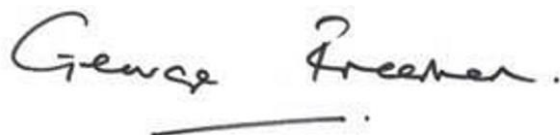
delivered via UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), who will publish details on how the guarantee will work, including eligibility, scope and how to apply, in the coming weeks.

At the recent Spending Review, the Chancellor committed to a substantial increase in UK R&D (and Horizon ring fence) to reflect the new landscape post-Spending Review and the pace of emerging global technology opportunities.

We have always been clear that our priority is to support the UK's research and development sector and we will continue to do this in all future scenarios. As announced in the 2021 Spending Review, in the event that the UK is unable to associate to Horizon Europe, the funding allocated to Horizon association will go to UK government R&D programmes, including those to support international partnerships.

The Government looked at the practicalities of handling such a situation in 2020 and developed a detailed set of alternatives plans, which included continued support for international research, innovation collaboration and domestic research support. This work is being refreshed and we remain ready to implement these plans should they become necessary. I have written an open letter to the sector to set out my early thinking on the policy priorities should we be unable to associate, and will be inviting their views over the coming weeks. I will of course keep Parliament up to date with any developments.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "George Freeman." with a horizontal line underneath.

GEORGE FREEMAN MP

Minister for Science, Research and Innovation