

Westminster Education Forum Keynote Seminar: The future of research in the UK - value, funding and the practicalities of rebalancing the UK economy

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 24th March 2011

Venue: Princess Alexandra Hall, Royal Over-Seas League, Over-Seas House, Park Place, St James's Street, London SW1A 1LR



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.45 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Paul Flynn MP, Member, Public Administration Select Committee and Member, All-Party Parliamentary University Group
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Research - the current situation and the next steps**
A strategic view of the priorities for policy on research funding and organisation in the UK.
Professor the Baroness Greenfield, Professor of Synaptic Pharmacology, University of Oxford and Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Scientific Research in Learning and Education
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 10.20 **Research and the UK economy - funding priorities and the value to society**
Latest views on the value of research to the UK's economy and competitiveness. As research funding from government is frozen for the next four years, what are the areas where scarce resources should be focused? How should choices be made between public investment in research focused on the arts, humanities and social sciences, and that focused on science and technology? How important is arts research in the development of the UK creative industries? What are the risks if funding for blue-sky research becomes a lower priority than research that offers the possibility of more immediate tangible outcomes? What should be the process for decision making on research spending in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills? How might expertise outside government in commissioning research and determining its focus be retained? To what extent can the private sector be expected to support the development of solutions to problems such as disease and climate change, which might not have the promise of early return on investment? How should the role of Government develop in relation to university and private research - for example in setting priorities, funding and monitoring practice?
Dr Richard Barker, Director General, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Professor Paul Boyle, Chief Executive, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
Dr Alison Mitchell, Deputy Director, Vitae
Professor Anne Carlisle, Rector and Chief Executive Officer, University College Falmouth
Dr Ian Chatting, Vice President, Global Research, Vestas
- 10.20 - 10.45 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Paul Flynn MP, Member, Public Administration Select Committee and Member, All-Party Parliamentary University Group
- 10.50 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Dr Julian Huppert MP, Vice-Chair, Digital Economy All-Party Parliamentary Group and Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Life Sciences
- 11.20 - 12.00 **The practicalities of 'rebalancing the UK economy': hubs, IP, tax credits and immigration**
Latest views on the potential for research in science and technology to help rebalance the UK economy and aid the expansion of high-tech industries. Will the new Technology and Innovation Centres, bringing together universities and industry, improve innovation and profitability in UK research as proposed by Government? What role should universities play in supporting science-based startups? What steps does Government need to take to encourage the creation of 'hubs' of innovative businesses, as seen in Cambridge and planned for the East End of London? What further ideas or measures need to be put in place to realise the vision of a UK economy underpinned by research, innovation and science-based enterprise? What developments in the legal framework for intellectual property rights need to be put in place to encourage further collaboration between industry and universities? How might the tax regime in the UK be developed to support a rebalancing of the economy; for example, should R&D tax credits be reformed to focus on SMEs, as proposed by the Dyson Review? What impact will tighter immigration controls have on research, and how might issues be resolved?
Louise Marston, Policy Advisor, Economic Growth Sectors, NESTA
Dr Andrew J Herbert, Chairman, Microsoft Research EMEA
Dr Mark Gray, Director of Knowledge Transfer and CPD, Middlesex University
- 12.00 - 12.25 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 - 12.55 **The view from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills - future policy and funding**
Dr Graeme Reid, Head of Economic Impact, Science and Research Directorate, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Westminster Education Forum thanks and closing remarks**
Dr Julian Huppert MP, Vice-Chair, Digital Economy All-Party Parliamentary Group and Vice-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Life Sciences
Sean Cudmore, Senior Producer, Westminster Education Forum