

Westminster Higher Education Forum and Westminster Business Forum Keynote Seminar

The next steps for UK research and innovation

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 23rd February 2012

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**

Baroness Perry of Southwark, Member, Science and Technology Committee, House of Lords

9.05 - 9.50 **The REF and funding for university research**

Is the REF likely to achieve its aims of improving the social and economic impact of UK research? How is the introduction of the REF likely to disproportionately affect research in the arts and humanities? Are the expert panels and sub-panels, and their individual REF criteria, fit for purpose across all areas of research? How can academics improve public engagement with research, and to what extent should the REF encourage this? How are universities already being affected by the freeze in research funding, and how can institutions adapt to minimise any negative impact of reduced funding? Considering the limited resources, where should government and universities focus science infrastructure spending in the coming years?

Professor Rick Ryland, Chief Executive, Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Chair, Research Councils UK (RCUK)

Paul Manners, Director, National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement

Professor Geoff Rodgers, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Brunel University

Dr Malcolm Skingle, Director, Academic Liaison, GlaxoSmithKline

Questions and comments from the floor

9.50 - 10.10 **Outlining the Research Excellence Framework (REF) - priorities and implementation**

David Sweeney, Director (Research, Innovation and Skills), Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

Questions and comments from the floor

10.10 - 10.55 **Developing the knowledge-intensive economy - responding to the Innovation and Research Strategy**

Perspectives on the Government's Innovation and Research Strategy. Which science-based industries have the highest potential for growth and how should Government support these sectors? How can investment in science-based SMEs, often requiring high-risk long-term investment before returns, be increased to support commercial innovation; what role should Government play? Will the new Enterprise Zones in England support innovative new businesses or should the Zones be more focused on prescribed industries to create 'hubs' of businesses in a particular sector, as proposed for the Enterprise Zones in Wales? What will be the likely impact of the Government's plans to improve the R&D Tax Credit scheme for SMEs, including raising the credit's value to 225% from April 2012? Could the process of claiming R&D Tax Credits be simplified to increase take-up? Will the proposed 'above the line' tax credit for large firms achieve its aim of increasing private investment in R&D? Should the new Tier 1 visa for 'Exceptional Talent' be more lenient to allow more lower-paid researchers from outside the EU to work in the UK?

Professor Richard Jones, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation, University of Sheffield

Louise Marston, Policy Advisor, Innovation, Investment and Growth, NESTA

Stuart Chapman, Managing Partner, DFJ Esprit

Dr Martin Dare-Edwards, UK Country Manager, Infineum and Chair, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Questions and comments from the floor

10.55 - 11.00 **Chairman's closing remarks**

Baroness Perry of Southwark, Member, Science and Technology Committee, House of Lords

11.00 - 11.20 Coffee

11.20 - 11.25 **Chairman's opening remarks**

Professor David Cope, Director, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

11.25 - 11.45 **Introducing Catapult Centres (formerly Technology Innovation Centres)**

Paul Mason, Head of Development, Technology Strategy Board

Questions and comments from the floor

11.45 - 12.30 **Making university and industry collaboration work**

Are Catapult Centres likely to achieve their aims of improving commercialisation of UK research? Which areas of research should the next wave of Catapult Centres be focused on? What role should universities play in supporting innovative startups? What are the key barriers to collaboration between universities and businesses? In what ways should the legal framework for intellectual property rights be reformed to encourage collaboration between industry and universities? Will the changes to VAT regulation announced in the Autumn Statement encourage further collaboration between universities and the private sector? How can HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) outside the traditional 'research-intensive' universities develop better links with private businesses to improve investment in research during a period of restrained public spending? What steps should universities and Government take to encourage SMEs to collaborate more with universities?

Professor Jeremy Ramsden, President, Collegium Basilea (Institute of Advanced Study), University of Basel, Switzerland

Chris Hale, Deputy Director of Policy, Universities UK

Professor Philip Gray, National Director, British Design Innovation and Co-Chair, University Design Industry Partnership

Dr James Wilkie, Director, Research and Commercial Services, University of Birmingham and Chief Executive Officer, Birmingham Research Park

Dr Mike Short, Vice-President, Public Affairs, Telefónica Europe and President 2011-2012, Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)

Questions and comments from the floor

12.30 - 12.55 **Next steps for research and innovation**

Dr Graeme Reid, Head of Research Funding, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's, Westminster Higher Education Forum and Westminster Business Forum thanks and closing remarks**

Professor David Cope, Director, Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

Sean Cudmore, Senior Producer, Westminster Higher Education Forum and Westminster Business Forum