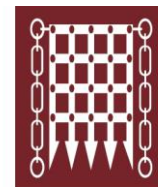


Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference
Next steps for the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA) - scope and remit, culture and organisation, areas of focus, and external and international relationships

Timing: Morning, Friday, 25th February 2022

Taking Place Online



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **The outlook for ARIA, progress, and immediate next steps**
Sarah Hodgetts, Deputy Director for Science, Research and Innovation, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for the creation of ARIA - culture and internal organisation, funding levels and processes, accountability, value for money, oversight, and outstanding questions and challenges**
Professor James Wilsdon, Director, Research on Research Institute, University of Sheffield
Professor Tim Softley, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Transfer, University of Birmingham
Maurice Frankel, Director, Campaign for Freedom of Information
Professor Sarah Main, Executive Director, Campaign for Science and Engineering
Senior representative, business
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 Break
- 10.25 **ARIA and devolved governments and agencies**
Senior representative, devolved nations
- 10.30 **ARIA within an effectively functioning UK R&D landscape - relationships with other agencies and bodies, ties with industry and academia, and options for coordinating focus areas and avoiding duplication**
Dr Joe Marshall, Chief Executive, National Centre for Universities and Business
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, research
Senior commentator
- 10.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.15 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.20 Break
- 11.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Lord Narendra Patel, Chair, Science and Technology Committee, House of Lords
- Securing the benefits of high-risk research**
- 11.35 **Partnering in national research projects**
Senior representative, research
- 11.45 **Oversight and coordination of high-risk research**
William Bonvillian, Lecturer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 11.55 **'Effective programme management for translating challenge-led research'**
Dr Eoin O'Sullivan, Director, Centre for Science Technology & Innovation Policy, University of Cambridge
- 12.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **The way forward for international cooperation and sharing best practice**
Dr Peter Highnam, Deputy Director, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Lord Narendra Patel, Chair, Science and Technology Committee, House of Lords
Patrick Owen, Researcher, Westminster Higher Education Forum