

Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference
Establishing the Advanced Research & Invention Agency (ARIA) and its key future priorities

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 20th July 2021

*****Taking Place Online*****



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Chi Onwurah MP, Shadow Minister for Science, Research & Digital
- 9.05 **Progress so far with developing ARIA and the outlook for its launch**
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 reducing bureaucracy in applications for research and innovation funding**
Anne Sofield, Programme Director, Simpler and Better Funding, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)
- 9.40 **The funding model - speeding up bidding for research funding, freedom of information and oversight, public engagement, and providing value for money**
Maurice Frankel, Director, Campaign for Freedom of Information
Dr Kath Mackay, Managing Director, Alderley Park
Professor Jonathan Seckl, Senior Vice-Principal, Planning, Resources and Research Policy, University of Edinburgh
- 9.55 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 Break
- 10.30 **Developing an institutional culture that supports blue skies research - cutting excess administration, embracing the possibility of failure, deepening collaborative practices, and harnessing open science**
Professor Chris Speed, Chair, Design Informatics, University of Edinburgh
Dr Ruth McKernan, Chair, UK BioIndustry Association and former CEO, Innovate UK
Senior representative, research foundation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 **Chair's closing remarks**
Chi Onwurah MP, Shadow Minister for Science, Research & Digital
- 11.05 Break
- 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Richard Holden MP
- 11.20 **Positioning ARIA in the broader R&D system - forging connections with established institutions and industry, sharing knowledge and expertise, and implications for the functioning of the system as a whole**
Dr Kieron Flanagan, Senior Lecturer in Science and Technology Policy, University of Manchester
Fariba Soetan, Policy Lead (Research & Innovation), National Centre for Universities and Business
Senior representative, think tank
Questions and comments from the floor
- Focus areas for research in high-risk innovation and how the benefits should be spread**
- 11.50 **Supporting the net-zero transition and tackling climate change**
Professor Francis Livens, Academic Director, School of Chemistry, University of Manchester
- 12.00 **ARIA's potential contribution to UK defence preparedness**
Senior representative, policy
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 Break
- 12.30 **Learning from international practice in supporting risk-taking in research**
Dr Alan Bernstein, President & CEO, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Richard Holden MP
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum