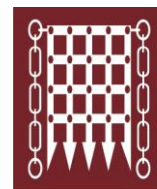


**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference**  
**Next steps for UK research and innovation - policy, strategy, and organisation, business-HE and international collaboration, investment, and the workforce**

*Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 25th January 2022*

**\*\*\*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 **'Supporting Business Innovation - leveraging UK research strengths'**  
**Paul Mason**, Director, Innovation Policy, Innovate UK  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Utilising university-business cooperation and innovation to drive local growth and investment**  
**Lord O'Neill**, Chairman, Northern Gritstone
- 9.40 **Opportunities for growing international cooperation in research and innovation**  
**Professor Mark Ferguson**, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to Irish Government
- 9.50 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.05 **Developing a joined up innovation system - improving university-business connections and facilitating knowledge exchange, reducing disparities in regional research capabilities, development of clusters, and investment priorities**  
**Dr Joe Marshall**, Chief Executive, NCUB  
**Tom Samson**, Chief Executive Officer, UK SMR Consortium  
**Professor Luke Georghiou**, Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Manchester  
Senior representative, local economies  
Senior representative, research  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Chi Onwurah MP**, Shadow Minister for Science, Research & Digital
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **Improving the availability of finance, stimulating domestic and international investment, options for regulatory and tax reform, and supporting SMEs**  
**Penny Simmons**, Legal Director, Pinsent Masons  
Senior representative, investment  
Senior representative, research-intensive business  
Senior representative, SMEs  
Senior representative, consultancy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 **Priorities for the innovation workforce - international recruitment, up-skilling, workplace culture, and supporting job mobility and diversity**  
**Laura Darnley**, Legal Director, Brabners  
Senior representative, research  
Senior representative, union  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.35 **Policy priorities for UK innovation - taking forward the Innovation Strategy and priorities for implementation**  
Senior representative, policy  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's closing remarks**  
Senior Parliamentarian  
**Sean Cudmore**, Deputy Editor, Westminster Higher Education Forum