

**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for university spin-outs and commercialisation in the UK**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 25th January 2027

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

Draft agenda subject to change



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 9.05 **Assessing progress and priorities following the Independent Review and Hickson Review**
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **University-investor relationships, deal terms and IP - experience in practice and next steps**
equity and licensing / timescale to deal completion / UKRI's refreshed IP policies and terms attached to publicly funded research / implications for investment, ownership and company location / university-investor relationships, timing of engagement, decision-making and investor input / commercialisation practice, governance and support for founders / investor engagement and commercial expertise in universities / role and resourcing of technology transfer offices / entrepreneurship, company formation and investor readiness / founder equity, team dynamics and diversity / differences in approaches to risk and development timescales, and the incentives and expectations of founders, investors and universities / published policies and transparency of deal data
Professor David Denning, Professor, Infectious Disease in Global Health, University of Manchester
Senior representative, legal
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, investment
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Priorities for research translation, proof-of-concept and routes to investment**
Senior representative, university commercialisation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 10.50 Break
- 11.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
- 11.05 **Commercialisation finance, scale-up and international growth**
bridging the gap between publicly funded research and private investment / commercial readiness and pathways to first investment / pre-seed, early-stage and growth funding / UKRI proof-of-concept support and the Innovate UK Venture Builder pilot / role of UKRI, Innovate UK and the British Business Bank / pension and institutional capital / British Growth Partnership and the proposed UK Scale-up Fund / scaling and international expansion / UK and overseas listing and exit routes / retaining economic value, talent and high-growth companies in the UK
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, spin-out
- 11.20 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Spin-outs in strategic technologies - capital needs, development timescales and routes to market**
Senior representative, industry
- 11.50 **Regional commercialisation capacity and long-term outcomes across the UK**
access to investment, investor networks and commercialisation support beyond established innovation hubs / growth in spin-out activity outside the golden triangle / innovation clusters, place-based growth and the Local Innovation Partnerships Fund / shared technology transfer models and collaboration / strengthening commercialisation expertise and support capacity / regional approaches to attracting investment and supporting scale-up / translating publicly funded research into long-term economic impact / the HEIF review and incentives for commercialisation / measuring outcomes including scale-up performance, investment attraction and wider economic impact / tracking high-potential spin-outs
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, spin-out
Senior representative, combined authority
Senior commentator
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Commercialisation capacity in England - the HEIF review and Research England priorities**
Dr Bethany Adams, Associate Director, Knowledge Exchange Strategic Projects and Partnerships, Research England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentary
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum