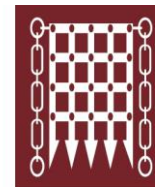


Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:

Next steps for UK research and innovation policy

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 30th April 2025

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 **Assessing the UK's R&I landscape - current state of play**
Senior academic
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **UK R&I strategy and priorities moving forward**
key priorities | defining success and measuring performance | accountability | fostering international competitiveness alongside domestic economic growth | assessing priorities for AI investment | implications of sectoral shifts in R&D focus | role of the Regulatory Innovation Office | next steps for UKRI and ARIA under 10-year funding commitments | implications for long-term research planning
Dr Nicola Eckersley-Waites, Manager, Technology and Innovation, CBI
Professor Gerard Parr, Chair, Telecommunications Engineering, University of East Anglia
Dr Liam Sutton, Associate Director, Research and Innovation, University of Bradford
Dr Jay Stone, Associate Director, External Relations and Foresight, Nuffield Council on Bioethics
Senior representative, AI
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.25 Break
- 10.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.40 **Investment in UK R&I and national funding goals**
public-private mix and relationships | options for regulatory and tax reform and priorities for the National Wealth Fund | foreign investment | the future for R&D in the health sector | options for expansion, including AI, energy, and defence | strategies for retaining and scaling innovative ventures in the UK
Dr Stuart Wilkinson, CEO, Knowledge Exchange UK
Senior speaker confirmed from **University of Central Lancashire**
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, charity
Senior representative, energy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.30 **Key priorities for the higher education sector in enhancing UK R&I**
Dr Mehwaesh Islam, Head, Research Policy, Universities UK
Greg Wade, Head, Innovation Policy, Universities UK
- 11.45 **Developing a joined-up R&I ecosystem**
university funding and research sustainability | challenges posed by financial constraints on universities | impact of rising National Insurance costs | tuition fee adjustments and alternative funding models | strengthening links between HEIs and business | government and business roles in shaping R&I success | optimising policy levers to drive innovation | benchmarking UK policy against international competitors | strategic considerations for attracting and retaining foreign investment
Dr Daniela Rodriguez-Rincon, Research Leader, RAND Europe
Dr Andy Sellars, Director, Strategy, Cornerstone
Chris Molloy, CEO, Medicines Discovery Catapult
Senior representative, local authority
Senior representative, charity
- 12.10 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for R&I policy in the UK**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum