

Monday 11 July 2022

The Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Dear Mr Zahawi,

I am writing to congratulate you on your new position as Chancellor of the Exchequer and to raise with you the pressing issue of the UK's association to Horizon Europe.

The British Academy is the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences. We are both a voice and a forum for these subjects: our Fellows represents the brightest and best and we fund hundreds of excellent, pioneering researchers each year, with the support of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, philanthropic gifts and drawing on our own reserves.

The health of research and development is central to the nation's prosperity, innovation and its strength as an economy. International collaboration is critical to the success of research in our disciplines, and for the country's ability to realise its ambitions as a global science superpower.

UK-based researchers and innovators have been immensely successful through Horizon Europe in receiving highly prestigious discovery research grants, particularly through the European Research Council, and constructing major international collaborative research and innovation consortia. Our social science and humanities researchers have been particularly successful, winning a significant source of their funding from the Horizon programme. We strongly support the Government's priority to associate to Horizon Europe as soon as possible and encourage you to continue to pursue this goal.

Given the current uncertainty related to the UK's association to Horizon Europe, we have been working with officials to develop and deliver any contingency planning that is required. In this respect, we ask that:

- The full funding set out in the Autumn Budget for association or replacement programmes if necessary is ringfenced and committed. If the UK is not currently able to associate to Horizon Europe, the Treasury provides us with a multi-year spending profile and budget breakdown for that ring fenced budget at the earliest opportunity.

- Government engages with the wider community on the long-term proposals if the UK is not able to associate. This will mean the sharing of plans for major new programmes so that they receive the community's input to shape them.
- Most immediately and before the Summer Recess, the Government announces the short-term arrangements that will be put in place to continue to support the research and innovation sector, including full support for third country participation to Horizon Europe and an extension of the current Horizon Europe guarantee implemented by UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) to at least the end of June 2023.
- The Government confirms now the funding for this short-term package, including uplifts to existing UK-based schemes to support the retention and attraction of global talent. The UK National Academies already have applications from highly talented researchers who have been recommended for funding, but we are unable to support them within confirmed budgets. Offers could be made to those researchers now to increase the chance of securing their long-term futures in the UK.

We cannot underscore enough the urgency of the situation. If you would like further briefing on the British Academy or Horizon Europe, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Julia Black PBA



President of the British Academy

*Cc: The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State at the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy*