



Craig Whittaker MP

CALDER VALLEY

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Response to Investment in Science & Research – January 2017

Thank you for contacting me about investment in science and research.

I share your commitment to protecting the UK's world-class research base. That is why I welcome that, despite considerable financial pressure, the Government has recognised the importance of research and will protect the science budget in real terms during this Parliament.

By investing in science we are backing one of Britain's greatest success stories and underpinning our future economic growth. The science budget of £4.7 billion will rise in cash terms every year in this Parliament, with a £1.5 billion Global Challenges Research Fund allocated over the next five years to ensure UK research is helping to tackle some of the world's greatest challenges.

The Government is also delivering on its manifesto commitment to protect the science capital budget. It is investing in new science capital on a record scale, amounting to £6.9 billion in our research infrastructure up to 2021.

The commitment to science includes a £200 million investment to build one of the world's most advanced ocean research vessels, a £20 million Institute of Coding to train the next generation in advanced digital skills, and up to £150 million for a Dementia Research Institute to ensure Britain leads the way in tackling this disease.

The investment in research is complemented by the support the Government is providing for innovation in the private sector. The Government is protecting the Catapult Centres to ensure innovative firms can access vital innovation support, and will review the tax environment for R&D to look at ways to make the UK an even more competitive place. This comes alongside a substantial real terms increases in Government investment worth £2 billion per year by 2020 for R&D, to ensure British business remains at the cutting edge of scientific and technological discovery.

The Government is also taking forward the recommendations of Paul Nurse's independent review and will introduce a new body – UK Research & Innovation to ensure we are maximising around £6 billion annual investment in these areas.

I appreciate your concerns about the future of science research in light of the recent referendum on our membership of the European Union. While the future of UK access to European science funding will be a matter for upcoming discussions, in the short-term the UK remains a member of the EU and will continue to receive relevant funding. For instance, the referendum result has no immediate effect on the right of UK researchers to apply to or participate in Horizon 2020.

These are exciting times for science and I support the Government's ambition for the UK to be the best place in the world for science and research.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Whittaker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig Whittaker MP