

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Via email

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to congratulate you on the Windsor Agreement, and to urge you to now move as swiftly as possible to rejoin the Horizon Europe programme.

The previous Horizon programme led to 31,000 global collaborations, with nearly 2000 businesses from across the country benefiting directly, including many smaller firms and start ups. Russell Group universities alone won 1400 European Research Council grants worth €1.8bn – more than the whole of France – which was only made possible due to the UK's association with Horizon.

Membership of Horizon is therefore critical to Britain's world-leading research and development work, which in turn is the foundation for economic growth. Horizon is not just about individual projects, important as they are, and where Britain has historically punched well above its weight; but about the wider network benefits that the UK economy receives from being part of this world-leading consortium of scientists, researchers and businesses.

The decision to guarantee eligible research projects which are unable to sign grant agreements with the EU until June 30 is welcome but it is a short-term sticking plaster. Re-joining Horizon will support your pledge to grow the economy by creating better-paid jobs and opportunity across the country. It is an opportunity that should be seized to ensure the UK remains at the cutting-edge of research and development.

Yours sincerely



John Dickie
Chief Executive
BusinessLDN



Henri Murison
Chief Executive
Northern Powerhouse Partnership

CC: Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, Secretary of State for Education

Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP, Minister of State (Minister for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education)