

The Rt Hon Liz Truss MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London, SW1A 2AA

7 September 2022

Dear Prime Minister,

As President of the Royal Society, the UK's national academy of science, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Prime Minister.

Science, technology and innovation need to be at the heart of the new government's strategy. They are critical to generating new knowledge, technologies and jobs, and bring a high rate of return on investment. They drive sustainable growth founded on increased productivity, and the UK's strong environment for startups and SMEs provides promising ground here. Meanwhile, the emerging threats faced by the UK and our allies mean that our national security depends more than ever on our presence in the vanguard of technological change.

Science belongs at the centre of government's deliberations. The National Science and Technology Council that you will chair is an important initiative aimed at aligning UK capabilities with science and technology advantage. It is important that science is represented in Cabinet by a Secretary of State with sufficient cross-government authority to support you in realising these ambitions.

Science is an international enterprise, and work is needed to prepare the ground for collaborative networks to flourish. This includes securing the UK's involvement in European research programmes as set out in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement, as well as investment in emerging international partnerships. Attracting international talent is another factor, and the UK is currently being outcompeted by other leading scientific nations in the upfront costs of work and study visas.

Long-term thinking that attracts political consensus will be needed if we are to realise the benefits of the outgoing Government's commitment to sustained investment. However, even with the committed increase in spending, we will still be investing a smaller share of our GDP than other leading nations.

The UK's success will also be dependent on the UK workforce having the right skills. To deliver that we need major educational reform, and the Royal Society, in partnership with others, has an active work programme to explore this.

I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss these issues.

Yours sincerely,



**Sir Adrian Smith PRS**



President Sir Adrian Smith  
Executive Director Dr Julie Maxton CBE

Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is the independent scientific academy of the UK, dedicated to promoting excellence in science.

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