THE ROYAL SOCIETY

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Statement on the principles that should shape the UK's future relationship with the EU in the area of research and innovation

The UK is a leading global scientific nation and is committed to world-class, internationally collaborative research. Our research provides the foundation for new ideas and discoveries, and fuels economic growth and the creation of high-value jobs. Science and research are critical to the UK economy and environment, its place in the world and the wellbeing and flourishing of its citizens.

Science is a fundamentally collaborative and global enterprise and therefore the UK should seek arrangements that:

- **enable scientists based in the UK to continue to be part of the shared European research endeavour and have the best possible access to international funds and the collaborations they support;**
- **create the lowest possible barriers to practising scientists seeking to move across borders;**
- **provide clarity and certainty, including through regulation and governance, consistently signalling that the UK remains a great place to practise great science.**

Funding and collaboration

The EU Framework Programmes offer an opportunity for collaborative science that is unrivalled in scale and impact. Participation in such international funding programmes and large-scale scientific infrastructure delivers greater added value and leverage for investment by enabling the development of networks and collaborations. These networks allow involvement in programmes beyond the scope of individual groups or even countries; greater influence in the future direction of European and thus global science; and, from the point of view of the UK, give greater visibility to UK science and scientists, making the UK a magnet for top talent, start-ups and investment.

Contribution to and participation in Framework Programmes has therefore been central to the UK's global scientific effort and should remain so, both benefiting the UK and advancing European and global science. An international vision for science across Europe, with a strong emphasis on excellence, has been set out by the EU. The Royal Society supports this approach and will continue to work with partners across Europe, offering our expertise to help to shape the ninth Framework Programme, Horizon Europe, and in developing the European Research Area.

- **The UK should seek an association agreement that enables access to <u>all</u> aspects of the EU's research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe, with full engagement and influence. This will include the ability to influence and, through the offer of the UK's considerable expertise and leadership in science, to help shape the content and direction of the programme and its successors, consistent with the progressive and international vision articulated in the LAB-FAB-APP report. This would also include active support in the evaluation and peer review of the programmes.**
- **The UK should seek to establish an early agreement on this role in shaping the EU's research and innovation programme, committing funding on the basis of playing a key role in its development. That funding commitment should meet the UK's obligations to all aspects of the programme, and reflect the full value and benefit of awards made to UK applicants. This funding should be additional to existing research and innovation spending commitments.**

People
The UK must commit to a migration system that maintains the steady exchange of people and ideas on which the generation of new scientific knowledge critically depends, and that signals the UK's openness to scientists and researchers from across the globe. The system should meet the needs of researchers seeking to move to the UK, and UK researchers seeking to relocate, as well as those travelling to and from the UK for both short and long-term visits including short term paid engagements. It should allow access to scientific infrastructures across the EU and internationally and apply to the specialist technologists and technicians who support research.

The Society recommends the implementation of an immigration system for people with skills relevant to research and innovation that is fair, transparent and efficient. Specifically:

- **any researcher who is given an academic appointment or project funding as part of a research programme which is publically funded (including those provided by the Commission, UKRI, and the UK or other national academies), or who is offered a long-term post in a UK university or research institute, should automatically be guaranteed entry for themselves and for their families;**
- **such posts should also confer guaranteed entry to essential members of a researcher's wider team;**
- **the costs of any necessary visas should be commensurate with typical academic salaries and with the length of stay being requested – from a day visit to long term appointments;**
- **where an automatic visa does not apply, the detail required from applicants and the time taken to make a decision should be proportionate to the purpose of travel. For example, it should be possible for a scientist to be invited at short notice to a conference in the UK, and be able to satisfy entry requirements sufficiently speedily to allow attendance;**
- **researchers in academia and industry moving to the UK on a long-term basis should be offered attractive conditions, including routes to residency and citizenship, freedom to travel and the right to bring dependants;**
- **the government should negotiate reciprocal arrangements to ensure that UK researchers can travel and work overseas in support of their work with ease;**
- **a researcher who establishes a company built on the results of research they have carried out in the UK, and which has attracted substantial initial investment, should be given automatic right to residence, so that the UK can benefit from the translation of research and the impacts of innovation.**

Comparable arrangements should apply to researchers funded by or working in charities and businesses.

We recognise that this system may not be ready for when we leave the EU and an implementation period may be necessary. There must however be no discontinuity in the immigration system that would significantly disrupt the mobility of researchers as the UK passes through the final stages of exiting the EU.

Regulation
When well designed, and harmonised across countries, regulation promotes high-quality science and rapid translation. It also ensures that public safety standards are shared widely. The EU regulations that apply to the conduct of British science in areas such as clinical trials and data were informed by advice from British scientists and businesses alongside other European counterparts. At a time of uncertainty, it is important to provide certainty and clarity by promoting harmonised regulation relating to science and research.

- **During the period of transition, the Society supports the default position of automatic translation into UK law of existing EU regulations, including those coming into force during the implementation period, that apply to the conduct of science and innovation**.

- **After exiting the EU, seamless involvement in ambitious European projects requires that UK and EU regulations continue to be maximally aligned wherever it supports science and research. A mechanism to ensure frictionless cooperation between EU and UK regulations relevant to scientific collaboration must be set up as a high priority.**
- **The UK is a leader in shaping technology governance, especially for emerging technology, and should continue to take a prominent global role in shaping future regulation. Any mechanism for frictionless cooperation should also enable the identification of exceptional instances where there is a clear case for regulatory change or the development of new regulation, which would be carried out through close discussion with international colleagues both within and outside of the EU.**