

The Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London SW1H 0ET

30 September 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

As President of the Royal Society, the UK's national academy of science, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Royal Society Fellows have been innovators and entrepreneurs serving the national and indeed the global interest since 1660. The Society is the world's oldest science academy in continuous existence, and the UK's many scientific successes have been interwoven with its work, from the publication of Isaac Newton's *Principia Mathematica* to the modern Society with 85 Nobel Laureates among its Fellows.

The UK continues to boast great strengths in science, technology and innovation, all of which are critical to driving sustainable growth across all our nations and regions. They also bring a high rate of return on investment through private and overseas sources and increase productivity, and the UK's welcoming environment for start-ups and SMEs provides promising ground. Meanwhile, the emerging threats faced by the UK and our allies mean that our national security depends more than ever on our presence at the vanguard of technological change.

All this is contingent on maintaining an environment for internationally collaborative science networks to flourish. In support of this goal, we look forward to the Government securing the UK's association to European research programmes.

We must also continue to reform our education and immigration systems to ensure that the UK still produces, attracts and retains the brightest and best people. Succeeding in these endeavours requires long-term thinking that attracts political consensus. This is critical to realising the benefits of the Government's ongoing commitment to sustained investment in research and innovation.

I would be delighted to host you here at the Society at the earliest opportunity to discuss these issues further, and to offer you a private presentation of our fascinating scientific collections.

Yours sincerely,



**Sir Adrian Smith PRS**

