

## Evidence for the Science and Innovation Strategy 2014

The joint letter which the four UK higher education funding bodies and Research Councils UK sent to universities invited views and evidence on the following questions.

<b>Benchmarking the UK</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the key challenges the UK needs to address to maintain and develop a globally leading science and innovation system?</li> <li>• What indicators could be used to measure UK performance by 2020?</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Department of Business, Innovation and Skills' consultation on proposals for long-term capital investment invites evidence to be submitted in this area. To complement that consultation, we invite any further views relating to science and innovation infrastructure that are not covered by the Department's consultation; for example, how could we make the most of existing research and technology organisations and their infrastructure, in both the public and private sectors, to strengthen science capability and support for businesses?</li> </ul>
<b>Research capability and impact</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what key ways do the strategic principles informing UK science and innovation (such as dual support and autonomy) support the system?</li> <li>• What factors are important in ensuring we have the right balance of different types of research (for example basic research, experimental research, and research directed towards application)?</li> <li>• How could we further the progress already made on maximising the impact of research?</li> <li>• Which models, and characteristics of models, of government support to catalyse innovation, knowledge exchange and impact work best? In what context or contexts?</li> </ul>
<b>Skills for science and innovation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What more could be done to expand the number of people available in the UK in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines at all levels of qualification, from technician skills to graduates?</li> <li>• How could we maximise the chances of people fulfilling their potential in STEM disciplines in the UK? In what ways can we raise awareness of science- and innovation-related careers and opportunities?</li> <li>• Have we got the right balance between skills levels and disciplines for science and innovation? Are there particular areas where growth needs to be encouraged?</li> </ul>

- Do we have master's and postgraduate degrees that prepare graduates well to take up technological and managerial roles in UK businesses?

### **Research-business interface**

*In responding to the questions in this area, institutions may want to reflect on how their relationships with businesses relate to the issues raised.*

- What prevents businesses in the UK from investing in research and development as much as businesses do in other leading economies? What more could be done to catalyse business investment in the system?
- How could we ensure that more small and medium-sized enterprises develop new products and services to bring business innovation performance at the level of other leading economies? How could the science and innovation system better support some of these enterprises?
- How could the science and innovation system better contribute to supporting innovation in services, a large part of the UK economy? Are there areas that would require further consideration?
- How should Government and partners regularly identify the technologies in which the UK should prioritise investment, and what evidence should that be based on?