



POINT PLAN FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

The Government has stated its ambition to use research and innovation to transform the UK's economy and society. To do this it has set a target to increase research and development (R&D) investment in the UK to 2.4% of GDP by 2027 and 3% in the long term. However, this transformation of the UK economy will require ambitious and coordinated Government action, including a significant uplift in public investment in R&D.

Here are five actions that the incoming administration can take quickly in the first three months that will set the UK well on the way to reaching this ambitious target by increasing public investment, incentivising private investment and investing in people and skills.

WHAT ACTIONS CAN THE GOVERNMENT TAKE IN ITS FIRST THREE MONTHS TO SUPPORT SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING?



R&D INVESTMENT

Set a long-term plan and a budget to reach 2.4% by 2027



GLOBAL TALENT

Attract global talent: Extend post-study work visa to 2 years



INNOVATION IN GOVERNMENT

Harness the power of government: Embed the innovation principle



UK'S GLOBAL OFFER

Create a digital shop window for the UK innovation offer



DIVERSITY

Increase the pool of available talent: monitor diversity data





SET A LONG-TERM PLAN AND A BUDGET TO REACH 2.4% BY 2027

CaSE has calculated that to reach the target of 2.4% of GDP spent on R&D by 2027 the Government must commit an additional £20bn of public investment to R&D over five years from 2020/21 at the next spending review.

Global businesses cite the UK's strong academic base as a reason for investing in R&D in the UK. Members have told CaSE that leadership and long-term R&D investment from Government enables them to plan and gives industry confidence to keep on investing in R&D.



ATTRACT GLOBAL TALENT: EXTEND POST-STUDY WORK VISA TO 2 YEARS

Having more people working in the UK with the right skills and experience will be crucial to reaching the 2.4% target. A 50% uplift in research intensity will require 50% more people. This will mean attracting and retaining the most talented people globally to come and train, work and live in the UK.

Extending post-study work visas to two years will help retain highly skilled graduates in the UK. Home Office migration policy must be aligned with the ambitious 2.4% target: rebuilding confidence in the system in the short term and creating a streamlined, proportionate system in the long term.



HARNESS THE POWER OF GOVERNMENT: EMBED THE INNOVATION PRINCIPLE

The Government holds significant levers to drive innovation to support public service delivery and long-term cost effectiveness. These include research, procurement and regulation.

By embedding the innovation principle in all Government departments and new regulation the UK can secure first mover advantage in new and emerging sectors and technologies and deliver benefits of innovation faster.



CREATE A DIGITAL SHOP WINDOW FOR THE UK INNOVATION OFFER

About two-thirds of the additional R&D investment to reach the 2.4% target needs to come from private investment, and in particular foreign direct investment (FDI).

CaSE members have said that there is good innovation support in the UK, but it is hard to find. A single digital shop window would guide domestic and international innovators to the support available.



INCREASE THE POOL OF AVAILABLE TALENT: MONITOR DIVERSITY DATA

Addressing the lack of diversity in the R&D workforce by increasing the participation of under represented groups will help address the need for more skilled researchers to reach the 2.4% target by growing the available talent pool.

The Government should coordinate central analysis and monitoring of diversity data to understand causes of under-representation, ensuring evidence can inform action taken by Government and other organisations.