



*The Royal Society
of Edinburgh*

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The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
10 Downing Street
London
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Dear Prime Minister,

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE), Scotland's National Academy, welcomes the news that your government is close to reaching an agreement with the European Commission on the UK's association with the Horizon Europe programme.

Over the last multi-year Horizon programme, Scottish organisations secured a total of €852.6m of the Horizon 2020 budget. This represented 11.14% of the total funding awarded to UK organisations, boosting the nation's innovations economy, and demonstrating the depth of research excellence across Scotland. Small-to-medium-sized enterprises, at the forefront of innovation, secured nearly £100m of the €126.6m secured by Scottish businesses.

Maintaining research collaborations in the face of uncertainty is very challenging and the Horizon scheme provides a unique solution that delivers international connections and knowledge sharing across borders, with a view to addressing key global challenges. If the UK is serious about tackling, and indeed leading on, global challenges such as climate change, we need programmes like Horizon – not just for funding, but for the unparalleled routes to international partnerships.

It is evident that association with Horizon will boost the impact of Scottish research and development substantially, whilst preventing the loss of research stars who have won prestigious European Research Council awards. An agreement to secure UK association with Horizon Europe would be a further indication of a positive trend in the EU-UK relationship and may lead to further collaboration with Europe and beyond, in the future.

The RSE encourages your government to prioritise rejoining the Horizon programme with as little delay as possible, particularly ahead of the extended UK guarantee to cover all Horizon Europe calls until 30 September 2023. We would like to wish you every success in the final negotiations.

Yours sincerely,

Sir John Ball FRS PRSE
President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

CC: Humza Yousaf, First Minister of Scotland; Graeme Dey, Minister for Higher & Further Education; Alister Jack, Secretary of State for Scotland