



Human Relevant Science

Chair: Grahame Morris MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Amanda Solloway MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Nadhim Zahawi MP

14th December 2020

Dear Ministers,

Current financial support for New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)

As you may be aware, we have recently established a new APPG for Human Relevant Science which I have the pleasure to chair. As you know well, science and innovation are key to enhancing UK growth and exports, to security and resilience and to tackling health and environmental challenges.

I know that the Government has launched a number of potentially exciting initiatives to bolster science and innovation. Given the important role that NAMs can play in improving the safety and efficiency of drugs and chemicals, contributing to excellence, and saving money through more relevant research, my APPG is now looking at how we currently fund NAMs in the UK and where there is scope for doing better. Something I am sure you would agree is an important area of focus.

Following discussions with a range of stakeholders from academia, research, funding bodies and civil society, I have a number of questions which I think will help my APPG move forward with its work, which we hope will also be useful for ministers. I would of course be very happy to meet with you personally to discuss the questions should that be preferable and to extend an invitation to meet the APPG. Please see the questions listed below:

- What proportion of overall government science, research and innovation funding is devoted to NAMs?
- What is the current level of government financial support for the development and uptake of NAMs?
- What are the sources of this funding i.e. which research bodies and organisations?
- Is the Government able to give an approximation of how much of this research in the UK is funded by non-governmental organisations e.g. through European, charity or collaborative funding with industry?

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- Are there any metrics and/or criteria employed to specifically track funding of innovative, human relevant research? Is there a target for this? What are these metrics and criteria and who has overall responsibility and accountability for meeting these metrics and targets? If not, does the Government think that there is scope to adapt an existing, successful mechanism to do this?
- What is the regional distribution of institutes receiving funding through Government sources for NAMs development and application?
- Is it possible to say what proportion of overall Government science, research and innovation funding is devoted to NAMs?

I look forward to working with you to strengthen and take forward human relevant research in the UK and around the world.

Yours faithfully,

Grahame Morris MP

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