



13 April 2017

Dear Colleague,

Re: Invitation to attend Reid Review Oral Evidence Hearing on Research and Innovation in Wales at the Temple of Peace, King Edward VII Ave, Cardiff, CF10 3AP from 13:30 – 15:30 on 3 May 2017.

I write to bring to your attention the review of research and innovation in Wales which I am undertaking on behalf of the Welsh Government. As part of this review, I am seeking oral and written evidence in response to a number of questions; I should be very grateful if you would be prepared to attend an oral evidence hearing on the date given above. Should you accept, please be prepared to answer questions similar to those given in Appendix 1 of this letter. I am asking others to appear at the hearings so you should expect to be present with three or four others. Please note that your contribution may be cited in the report and an audio recording of your session will be made available publicly on publication of my report.

This Review has been commissioned for the Welsh Government by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Kirsty Williams AM, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, Ken Skates AM, and the Minister for Skills and Science, Julie James AM. The Review was announced in the Senedd by the Cabinet Secretary for Education on 31 January 2017, building on the work undertaken as part of the Hazelkorn Review.

The findings of the review will be mine alone but I plan to draw heavily on advice and guidance from a series of oral evidence hearings conducted by my Advisory Panel, the results of which will be cited in the final report. In addition, a call for written evidence will be published separately.

This review has been commissioned to identify current research and innovation strengths in Wales and to outline how these strengths can be developed to enable them to continue to support business, communities and Government effectively in the future, not least in the context of Brexit and the potential loss of significant research and innovation funding. The Welsh Government's aim is to position Wales as a small smart nation which can achieve the scale and quality of research and innovation which compare favourably with other OECD members within 10 years.

Please could you contact Dr Robert Hoyle (Robert.hoyle@wales.gsi.gov.uk) to confirm whether you are able to attend on the given date.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme Reid

Appendix 1. Questions for written evidence

- a. How can future support for Government-led investment and support for research and innovation in Wales be aligned with the requirements of the Well-being of the Future Generations Act (2015)? What link should there be between the WFG Act (2015) requirements and the economic and industrial strategy of the Welsh and UK Governments?
- b. What can be done by the Welsh Government, Welsh universities and the private sector to increase the competitiveness of the research and innovation landscape in Wales, thereby increasing the attractiveness of Wales as a place to undertake research and innovation and attract inward investment and investors from outside Wales, both in academia and in industry?
- c. What can be done by the Welsh Government, business and universities to increase research and innovation income in Wales in the light of the implications of BREXIT and the increased funding announced in the 2016 Autumn Statement and UK Government's 2017 Budget, the Global Challenge Fund and other, opportunistic Government funding opportunities?
- d. What is the optimum balance between (a) geographically focused use of funding and (b) focus of funding on existing research and innovation excellence and capability, bearing in mind the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure's new regional approach to economic development?