

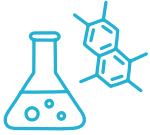


The chemical sciences have a critical role to play in the global challenges we face and in the technological advances being developed to help meet these challenges. We are calling on the next Government to place science and technology at the heart of the political agenda to create a resilient, sustainable economy and allow UK science to thrive.

We are calling on the next

1

Create an ambitious, inclusive, and stable R&D policy environment for UK science and innovation to thrive, advancing economic growth and productivity, maximising the benefits created by R&D and becoming a leading science and technology nation globally.



Funding and landscape

Enable the UK to be a leading I G7 country on RDI investment and aim to be among the top science nations globally.

Long-term investment: once the Government has achieved its commitment to invest £20 billion per year on RDI by 2024/25, this should increase to £22 billion per year by 2026/27, in line with previous commitments.

Create a stable policy environment to boost

and high-skilled workers, to locate their lives and businesses in the country.

Ensure that increased investment and support is felt across all regions and nations of the UK and supports a science culture that prioritises good

heightening participation in science and innovation.

Support UK researchers and business to make the most of Horizon Europe participation and ensure any underspend is ringfenced for research and innovation.



Ecosystem and resources

Address the critical shortage of laboratory facilities in the UK, ensuring chemical scientists can access appropriate laboratory space across the entire country.

SMEs, particularly at the scale-up stage to maximise economic growth and allow for SMEs to thrive.

Mandating sustainable laboratory practices that are realistic, ambitious and embed sustainability in organisational culture.

2

A world class chemistry education for all, ensuring that future generations are equipped for the emerging economy, to guarantee an effective labour pipeline and maintain the strength of the chemical sciences.



An empowered expert workforce

Ensure teachers and technicians have the resources, skills, expertise and motivation so that all students have access to an excellent chemistry education.

Address the teacher recruitment and retention crisis with long-term solutions that can withstand

tackling the problem of unsustainable workload and promoting a culture of support and development in schools, where teachers are trusted to take ownership and control of their own development.

development for teachers. This should:

- Meet the needs of a broad range of teachers to account for differing prior knowledge, and
- Include professional development opportunities to help teachers with a background in one science discipline, gradually gain the expertise needed to teach curriculum content in one or both of the other school science disciplines.

development should be an ongoing entitlement for all teachers, whatever stage they are in their teaching career.

Address the shortage of school science technicians through improvements in conditions and pay.

A relevant and adequately resourced curriculum

engaging and relevant, while avoiding content overload; it should provide young people with skills and understanding that enables them to become

further study and/or careers in the chemical sciences.

Prepare all young people to fully participate in efforts to tackle climate change and sustainability challenges.

Include relevant and regular practical chemistry activities which are sustainable, inclusive, accessible and have a clear purpose, and whose consumables and

Foster a sense of identity and belonging in the chemical sciences through better use of contexts, examples and role models; students see that a future in chemistry is 'for people like me'.

3

A strategic approach to the management of chemicals resources for a robust and sustainable economy, protecting our health and environment by driving a just transition to a circular economy.



International cooperation and leadership on chemicals

Continue to support UK leadership in UNEP's work in global framework for chemicals (GFC) and the process of developing the UN Science Policy Panel (SPP) on chemicals, waste and pollution prevention.

Address the global pollution and waste crisis driven by excessive use of problematic, unnecessary and avoidable plastics.

Show leadership on the global pollution and waste crisis driven by excessive use of problematic, unnecessary and avoidable plastics, by continuing to engage with the international plastics treaty process, and acting decisively in the UK to enable a circular economy of plastic.

Strengthen research and development efforts into long-term monitoring programmes and measurement technologies that increase our understanding of the impacts of indoor and outdoor air quality.

continue commitment to international collaborations regarding antimicrobial resistance (AMR) research and surveillance programmes, and to maintain a strong science base to enable a comprehensive approach to AMR.

Circular economy

Develop policies that support the transition to a circular materials economy, including investment in a domestic recycling infrastructure.

alongside assessments of criticality and substitutability of materials.

Map and track critical mineral streams and regularly assess the criticality of minerals and other raw materials, taking into account the needs of different sectors.

Support a moratorium on commercial exploitation of minerals through deep seabed mining whilst work continues to understand its impacts.

Chemicals Strategy and management

Give a timeframe for the release of the long-awaited chemicals strategy.

Provide necessary bespoke training and upskilling of regulatory professionals to deliver high quality regulatory regimes for chemicals.

Set up a national chemicals regulation approach to provide better strategic coordination of monitoring and regulation of all chemicals.

Improve the quality of drinking water by lowering safe thresholds for PFAS in drinking water, maintaining a national inventory, and imposing stricter limits on PFAS discharges.

