

**Westminster Business Forum and Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:  
Next steps for growing investment for R&D in the UK and supporting scale-ups in key sectors**

*Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024*

**\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\***



**WESTMINSTER  
BUSINESS  
FORUM**



**WESTMINSTER  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
FORUM**

*Agenda subject to change*

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Nicola McConville**, Partner, Mischcon De Reya
- 9.05 **Positioning the UK as a global leader in finance for innovation**  
**Lord Holmes**, Member, House of Lords Science and Technology Committee; and Vice Chair, APPG on FinTech  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Priorities for unlocking public and private sector investment in R&D - government support, widening sources of funding, attracting foreign investment, tackling bureaucracy, and supporting investor confidence and expected returns**  
**Sami Moughrabie**, Managing Partner, ATMOS Ventures  
**Professor Katy Shaw**, Programme Director, Arts and Human Research Council, Creative Communities; and Director of University Cultural Partnerships, Northumbria University  
**Professor Paul Beasley**, Head of Research and Development UK, Siemens  
**Andrew Leicester**, Associate Director, Frontier Economics  
**David Bryon**, Chief Financial Officer, First Light Fusion  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.25 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Nicola McConville**, Partner, Mischcon De Reya
- 10.30 Break
- 10.40 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Geeta Nathan**, Deputy Director of Innovation Ecosystem Strategy, Innovate UK
- 10.45 **Strategies for reducing bureaucracy for innovation funding in the UK**  
**Geeta Nathan**, Deputy Director of Innovation Ecosystem Strategy, Innovate UK  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.10 **Innovation, key sectors and levelling up - strategies for supporting unicorns and futurecorns, finance at a local level and increasing the impact of R&D and commercialisation across the UK**  
**Professor Dave Greenwood**, Chief Executive, Warwick Manufacturing Group, University of Warwick  
**Steven Wilson**, Head of Innovation, Freeport East  
**Dr Joe Marshall**, Chief Executive, National Centre for Universities and Business  
**Eileen Modral**, Ecosystem Innovation and Growth Specialist, Oxford Innovation Advice  
**Jessie Baguley**, Net Zero Innovation Cluster Coordinator, Tees Valley Combined Authority  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.00 **Enhancing commercial partnerships in UK universities**  
**Greg Wade**, Head of Innovation Policy, Universities UK  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.30 **Next steps for UK growth funds**  
**Sam Dickson**, Head of Access to Finance, HM Treasury  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Westminster Forum Projects closing remarks**  
**Holly Attwell**, Senior Researcher, Westminster Forum Projects