



Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State
Department for Business,
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Darren Jones MP
Chair,
Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

20 January 2023

Dear Chair,

Legal establishment of the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA) and appointments to the Board

Thank you for your continued interest in my Department's progress to establish the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA).

ARIA has been created to find and fund scientific and technological breakthroughs to address global challenges as our ground-breaking new agency to drive our science, technology, and innovation mission. Backed by £800m of funding to 2025/26, ARIA is being set up to operate outside the traditional model of top-down grant funding with minimal bureaucracy, to fund research in new and innovative ways, and empower individuals to pursue ideas and discoveries with transformational potential.

I am pleased to confirm that ARIA will be legally established on 25 January 2023, and a commencement order will be laid in the House pursuant to the ARIA Act 2022.

To support this new organisation, I am delighted to announce a set of appointments that complete the composition of ARIA's Board. Joining Dr. Ilan Gur as CEO, Matt Clifford MBE as Chair, and the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Sir Patrick Vallance, as a Non-Executive Director (ex officio), I have appointed four additional Non-Executive Directors to ARIA's Board:

- **Kate Bingham DBE:** Kate is Managing Partner at SV Health Investors, where she has been building and investing in global biotech companies for over 30 years. Kate sits on the board of the Francis Crick Institute, chaired the UK Vaccine Taskforce in 2020 and was awarded a DBE in recognition of her work to procure, manufacture and distribute COVID-19 vaccines.
- **Stephen Cohen:** Stephen is a Civil Service Commissioner and a Commissioner at the Gambling Commission. He has over 40 years' experience in asset management in Asia, Europe and the USA and currently serves as Audit Chair for the Schroder U.K. Public Private Trust and the JPMorgan Japanese Investment Trust plc.

- **Sarah Hunter:** Sarah is the founding Global Director of Public Policy at X, the Moonshot Factory, and previously worked for Google. Sarah is currently a part-time lecturer at Stanford University and a trustee of Nesta. She previously served as a Senior Policy Advisor to Prime Minister Tony Blair on culture, media and sport, advising on the 2012 London Olympics bid.
- **Professor Sir David MacMillan** – David is a Scottish chemist and the James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of Chemistry at Princeton University. He was the joint recipient of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the study of asymmetric organocatalysis, developing novel catalysts for the rapid synthesis of new drugs and materials.

Antonia Jenkinson will also be joining ARIA as the Agency's first Chief Financial and Operations Officer. Antonia joins from UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), where she is currently Chief Financial Officer. Previously, she was Chief Financial Officer of Roc Technologies Ltd, Satellite Applications Catapult, and Wyevale Retail Group.

These individuals bring together unique experience from across the science, tech and investment world. Their appointment will be tremendous assets in helping to deliver ARIA's mission.

I have placed copies of this letter in the Libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Shapps".

RT HON GRANT SHAPPS MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy