

17th July 2023

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Science, Innovation and Technology Committee,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Greg,

Launching a call for evidence for engineering biology

I am pleased to inform you, in your capacity as Chair of the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee, that the Government will this Wednesday 19th July be publishing a call for evidence for engineering biology.


In March 2023 the UK Government named engineering biology as one of its five critical technologies, as set out in the Science and Technology Framework. This Framework committed Government to develop a strategic approach for engineering biology and its applications across the economy, supported by a £70 million public investment into engineering biology missions.

Engineering biology is a technology with significant transformative potential. UK companies are designing and creating incredibly exciting innovations. These innovations have applications across the economy, from life-saving drug discoveries to finding new ways to make crucial chemicals more sustainably and driving the transition to net zero.

The UK has considerable strengths in engineering biology, whether in R&D and scientific publications, or intellectual property and venture capital. This call for evidence will allow us to improve our understanding of how we can build on these strengths to better support British businesses and maintain the UK's world-leading position on this technology. Consultation with the engineering biology community will be a vital part of this process.

I have enclosed a copy of the engineering biology call for evidence. I will also place a copy into the libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chloe Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rt Hon Chloe Smith MP

Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology