



Department for  
Science, Innovation  
& Technology

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP  
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation  
and Technology  
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[www.gov.uk/dsit](http://www.gov.uk/dsit)

Baroness Brown of Cambridge, DBE, FEng FRS  
Science and Technology Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0AA

15 April 2024

Dear Baroness Brown,

Thank you for inviting me and my Permanent Secretary to speak to your Committee on 12 March. We committed to providing you with additional figures on R&D talent and workers in the UK and from abroad.

Regarding updated figures on research and development (R&D) workers in the UK:

- Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data from 2022/23 shows that out of a total of 153,000 'research and teaching' & 'research only' staff in higher education institutions, 36% were non-UK nationals, an increase from 31% in 2014/15. This increase has been driven by a greater increase of staff from outside of the EU. In 2014/15, 57% of academic research staff who were non-UK nationals were from the EU, and this reduced to 49% in 2022/23. Out of the total 153,000, 18% were EU nationals in 2022/23.
- In total, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) shows that in 2021 there were 2.3 million people working in R&D related occupations, with this figure rising annually over the previous decade. Out of this total of 2.3 million, 9% were EU Nationals in 2021. This has remained relatively stable since 2015.

Regarding trends in domestic and international talent and skills demands and flows, my Department uses a range of data sources and analysis to inform its work on attracting and retaining talent to fulfil our Science & Technology Superpower ambitions. For example, the Home Office's quarterly Immigration system statistics provide useful information on international talent flows. My officials would be pleased to answer any specific requests for analysis and data on this topic.

As I outlined on 12 March, the UK is now an associated country to Horizon Europe, which means that UK researchers and businesses can participate confidently in the world's largest programme of research cooperation, worth over £80bn. We welcome talented EU scientists, researchers and innovators to come to the UK via our points-based immigration offer, which enables top talent to locate to the UK through a number of visa routes.

I look forward to continued engagement with your committee to update on the Government's progress, and I will deposit a copy of this letter in the Libraries of both Houses.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Donelan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michelle" and the last name "Donelan" clearly distinguishable.

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP  
**Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology**