



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Lord Vallance
Minister of State for Science,
Innovation & Technology
Department for Science, Innovation &
Technology
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

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20 January 2025

Alice Macdonald MP
alice.macdonald.mp@parliament.uk

Your Ref: AM00850
Our Ref: MC2024/05947/PR

Dear Alice,

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 December on behalf of your constituent, Mr Wright, regarding innovation support from Innovate UK. I am responding as the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation.

It may be worth setting out that Innovate UK is part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), which is a non-departmental public body funded by a grant-in-aid from the UK government. Ministers are responsible for approving the overall UKRI budget and budgets for major new funding programmes, but UKRI and its constituent councils decide how to allocate funding to individual projects.

I was sorry to hear that your constituent was unsuccessful in his bid to obtain funding for his climate change innovation. If Mr Wright is happy to share more details of his experience with Innovate UK, including details of the competition to which he applied, my officials would be happy to look into this further.

Innovate UK does support new innovations and acts as the prime channel through which the government incentivises business-led technology innovation. Its role is to fund business-led innovation through the allocation of competitively awarded grants and contracts. Funding is available to all businesses undertaking innovation, irrespective of the technology or sector in which they are working, but most competitions are themed. Innovate UK's core funding is based on an open model. This means that opportunities to apply for funding are created for innovative businesses right across the economy, regardless of the sector in which they operate. It also means greater flexibility on the grant requested, allowing for a time that best suits their business cycles, rather than when they make the funding available.

Through <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/how-we-help/>, start-ups and SMEs can also gain access to a vast network of experts, collaborations, and industry events. Innovate UK has also created the innovation hub which you can access at <https://ukinnovationhub.ukri.org/>, simplifying how start-ups and other businesses access all innovation support from across the public sector, making innovation as inclusive as possible. Additionally, Innovate UK Business Growth, available at <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/business-growth/>, may be able to help Mr Wright with understanding alternative finance options.

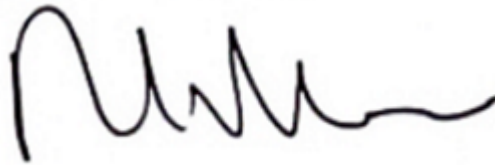
Finally, it may be helpful to set out the role of the UK Catapult Network. These are independent, private not-for-profit organisations – each with a specific sector or technology focus – whose role is to de-risk the transition from research to commercial delivery by providing



R&D infrastructure, specialist knowledge and expertise, partnership and collaboration building capabilities, and business support. They receive government funding via Innovate UK. They provide access to cutting-edge research and development facilities and innovation ecosystems to support businesses with new innovations, from concept through to adoption in the marketplace. The Catapult Network fosters collaborations between academia and industry to produce new science-backed knowledge and solutions that drive positive change, create jobs and stimulate investment. Further information is available at <https://catapult.org.uk/>.

I hope this is helpful in responding to your constituent.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. Vallance', written in a cursive style.

Lord Vallance
Minister of State
Department for Science, Innovation & Technology