



**Question:**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he has taken to increase the skills for people working in STEM research, (245819)

Tabled on: 18 April 2019

**Answer:**

**Chris Skidmore:**

The Government recognizes the need to enhance the UK's research talent pipeline and increase the number of opportunities on offer for highly-skilled researchers and innovators and has taken steps to do so.

For example, in June 2018 we announced £1.3bn investment in UK talent and skills to grow and attract the best in science and innovation. This includes:

- £900m invested for the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship which is open to the best researchers from around the world.
- £50m invested to existing programmes that are delivered through UKRI which include 300 additional PhDs, 90 additional Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, and up to 300 PhD additional Innovation Placements
- £350m invested for prestigious National Academy fellowships.
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy provided the following answer to your written parliamentary question (246537):

**Question:**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to maintain Government funding for science, technology and maths research through the (a) Daphne Jackson Trust and (b) Wellcome Trust; and if he will make a statement. . (246537)

Tabled on: 23 April 2019

**Answer:**

**Chris Skidmore:**

The Government has made a commitment to increase overall investment in R&D to 2.4% of GDP by 2027, and 3% in the longer term. This will be the largest increase ever.

The Daphne Jackson Trust and the Wellcome Trust are independent charities that do not receive Government funding for their core activities. We have developed and maintain close relationships with both organisations and have supported and worked in partnership with them on specific projects.

Through its fellowships the Daphne Jackson Trust supports researchers to retrain and return after a career break of two or more years taken for family, caring or health reasons. In 2017 over half of the seventy active Daphne Jackson Fellowships were sponsored by one or more Research Councils.

The Department has partnered with the Wellcome Trust to deliver the Inspiring Science Fund which supports science centres to create opportunities for young people, with an increased focus on under-represented and underserved audiences, to learn about and engage with science, technology, engineering and maths.

**Question:**

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether he has plans to increase Government funding to support the STEM research sector; and what recent assessment he has made of the effect of such Government funding on changes in the number of highly skilled people working in that sector. (246536)

Tabled on: 23 April 2019

**Answer:**

**Chris Skidmore:**

Through our modern Industrial Strategy we have committed to the highest R&D increase on record. We have announced increases in public R&D spending worth £7bn up to 2021/2022, and we are working with UK Research and Innovation and other key partners to develop a roadmap that sets out how government and industry will work together to reach our target of increasing R&D investment to 2.4% of GDP by 2027, which would be the highest recorded level, and 3% in the longer-term.

The Government recognises that to make best use of this increased level of investment in science we will need to increase the number of researchers and strengthen the pipeline leading to research careers. Though it is too early to assess the impacts of these new programmes we are addressing this need through such programmes as UK Research and Innovation's £900m Future Leaders Fellowship which aims to attract the best researchers from the UK and from around the world.