



Russell Group response to the Science and Technology Committee's inquiry into Government Horizon Scanning

1. We welcome the opportunity to comment on the Science and Technology Select Committee's inquiry into Government horizon scanning.

innovation.

3. The research-intensive universities represented in advising the Government on potential threats, providing expertise and a strong evidence base for the Government. Russell Group universities include world-leading experts in many areas of research and endeavour and they have the critical mass of intellectual capital, infrastructure and resources needed to generate the evidence base on which wider social and economic impacts are assessed. We are mindful of the possibility to consult these experts to underpin its horizon scanning work, not just in Government Departments, Agencies and Devolved Administrations.
4. Increasingly, there is a role for social sciences in

Departments to offer alternative perspectives and robust challenge. This is particularly important where a multi-disciplinary view is required.

8. Whilst the Committee is focusing on horizon scanning, which typically means the assessment of longer-term opportunities and risks (Jon Day's report defined the timescale as 'beyond the Parliamentary term'), it could also be useful to have a directory of identified experts with security pre-clearance who could be called together at short-notice to deal with emergencies or situations demanding an especially short time-frame. We understand that the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser is interested in developing such a directory and we suggest that this could be considered alongside work to develop the horizon scanning network of contacts.

Russell Group

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