

**Innovate UK**

Appointment of  
**Executive Chair**

August 2024

Closing date: Monday 7 October 2024

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# Introduction from the Secretary of State



Dear Candidate,

Delivering growth and raising productivity depend on fresh thinking and new ideas. We are seeking an exceptional individual to lead the UK's innovation agency, Innovate UK.

Innovation is a powerful tool to kickstart economic growth, increase investment and reform our economy. You will drive reform across the innovation ecosystem, enabling new, trusted and effective partnerships with business and investors. By creating an entrepreneurial environment that turns ideas into innovation and innovation into commercial success, we will increase investment and living standards and deliver our mission-driven industrial strategy.

Drawing on your entrepreneurial, innovation and leadership skills, you will shape how the Government supports our most innovative science, technology, engineering and creative businesses. Under your leadership, Innovate UK will strengthen its strategic partnerships with innovators and investors, building a vibrant ecosystem that supports company formation and growth. You will ensure that companies of all sizes are able to invest with confidence, supporting innovators across the UK to turn ideas into new products.

Working in close collaboration across Government and with businesses and private sector investors, you will ensure that we provide more cohesive, end-to-end innovation support. You will help develop UKRI's offer to business, leading efforts across UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to ensure that innovation support is readily accessible to every sector of the economy. You will ensure that innovative companies help deliver the Government's 5 missions.

We look forward to receiving your application.

**Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP**  
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology

# About Innovate UK

Innovate UK (IUK) is the UK's innovation agency, currently providing approximately £2 billion per annum of innovation support. IUK delivers products, services and funding to the UK's business community to support innovation and drive growth.

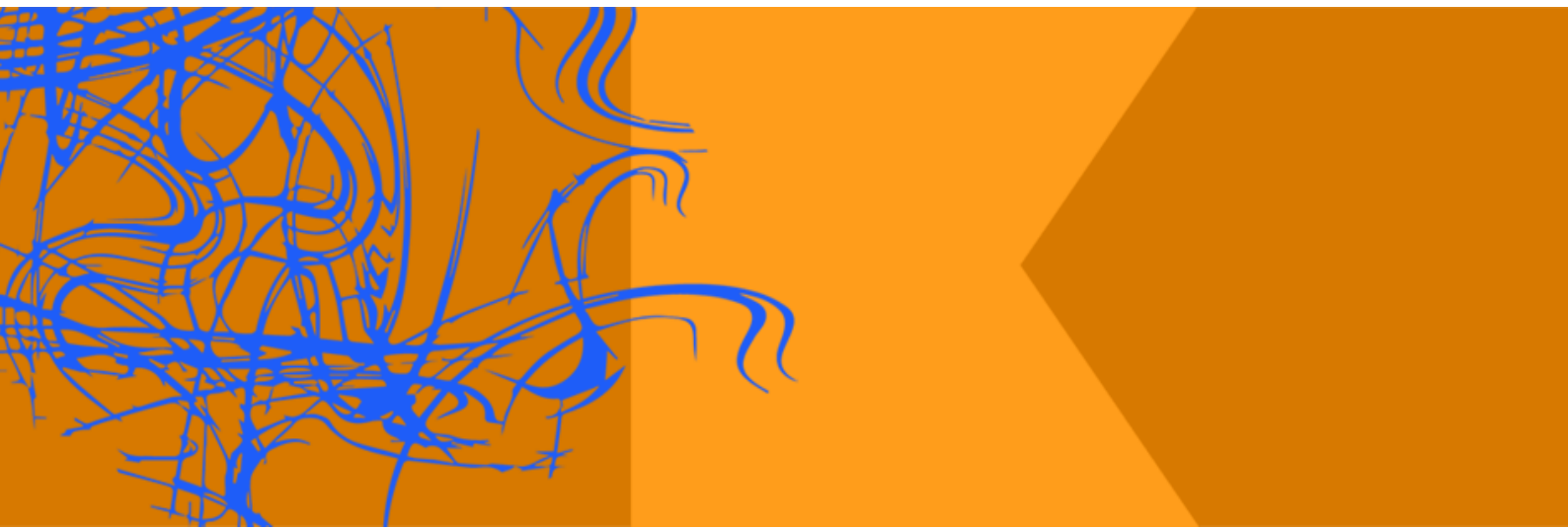
With a portfolio of investments up and down the country, IUK helps key sectors including manufacturing, biotech, agri-food and digital to seize the power of revolutionary research, and technologies to stimulate growth and new products.

IUK has an active network of 335,000 innovators and supported 19,500 businesses last year, of which 8,000 were supported for the first time. In addition, IUK partnered with over 20 Government departments/agencies, and operates a growing network of Catapult centres, across 50 locations up and down the UK, supporting over 5,000 SMEs. More information on IUK's portfolio of activity is available [here](#).

## Innovate UK in UKRI

Innovate UK is an integral but distinct part of UKRI, the UK's national funding body for scientific and technological research and development. As well as being responsible for Innovate UK, you will have a critical role in leading commercialisation and business engagement across UKRI.

You will ensure that the UK's considerable strength in generating early-stage research and innovation is captured, commercialised and anchored as economic and societal value for British businesses, investors and citizens.



# The Opportunity

There is enormous potential for the new leader of Innovate UK to support the Government's mission-led Industrial Strategy and its 5 missions. You will translate science and technology into productivity and sustainable growth that delivers for citizens throughout the UK.

As the Executive Chair of Innovate UK you will have considerable autonomy to reshape Innovate UK so it can best deliver on the Government's mission led agendas. Drawing on the UK's globally recognised strengths in early-stage research, you will work with UKRI's research councils, other public sector bodies, investors, and businesses up and down the UK to unleash innovation and productivity across our economy and society. You will develop and deliver strategies for accelerating corporate R&D investment while nurturing and scaling the UK's most exciting and investable tech and R&D intensive startups and spinouts.

## Key responsibilities

- Lead and manage Innovate UK and its staff to kickstart economic growth in the UK, providing the inspirational and inclusive leadership and vision to maintain and develop the quality, outputs and impacts of its grants, loans and wider innovation support programmes;
- Deliver a high-quality service to the innovative businesses who access Innovate UK support, simplifying and streamlining that service offering to make it easier and faster for businesses to access the help they need to innovate;
- Develop and execute a strategy for Innovate UK, working in partnership with DSIT (Department for Science, Innovation and Technology) and the rest of UKRI, that enables us to transform our innovation support offer to businesses;
- Work across UKRI's Councils to foster interdisciplinary work to maximise innovation and build on collective capabilities, particularly in driving forward commercialisation opportunities;
- Supporting the Government's mission to kick-start economic growth, work closely with the National Wealth Fund and Industrial Strategy Council to develop a comprehensive offer across the innovation lifecycle and ensure that we champion business innovation from science, technology and engineering;
- Develop exceptional links with the business community, investors, Government, academia and international partners to develop and catalyse new ideas; and,
- Work with Government and partners on the world stage to ensure that IUK supports international success of UK innovation.

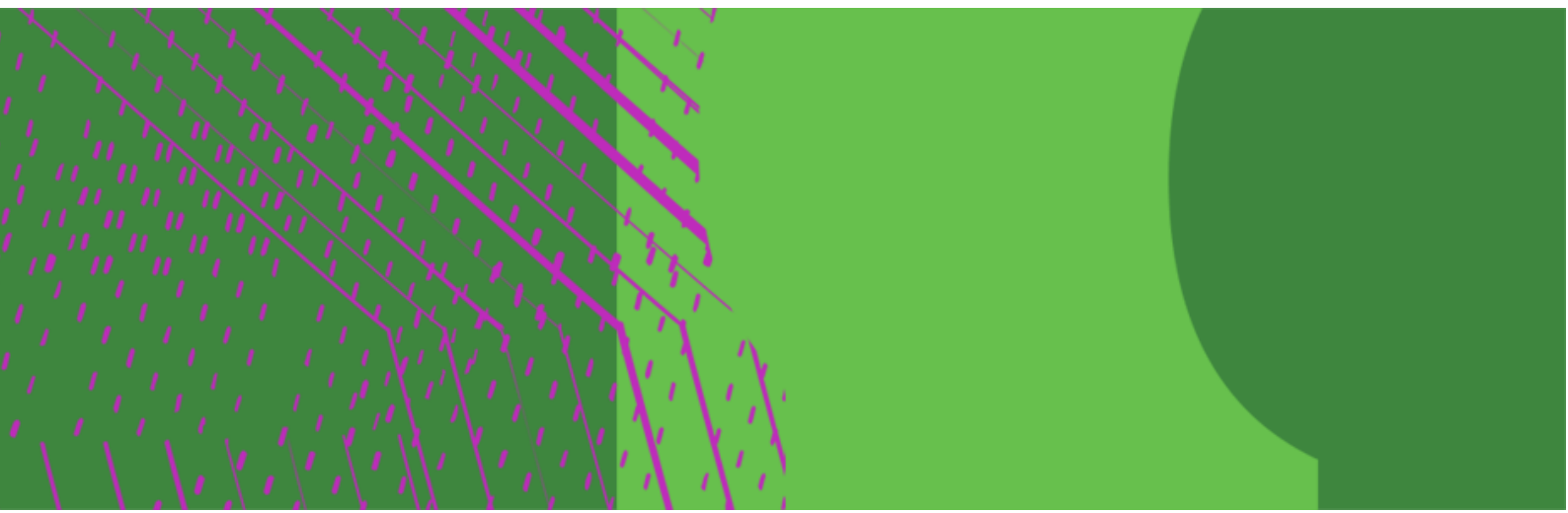
# Person Specification

## Essential criteria

- An exceptional innovator, entrepreneur, investor or executive with a track record leading innovation, growth and transformation within technology and R&D-intensive industries.
- You bring proven leadership, commercial acumen and financial management experience, with an in-depth understanding of investments, financial products and how to remove barriers to growth in young businesses.
- You have experience of science, technology and engineering innovation.
- You have experience of managing and driving change in large and complex organisations, inspiring exceptional performance, building capability where needed, and motivating people at all levels.
- You have excellent interpersonal and influencing skills and can build working relationships with a diverse range of partners.
- You can work collaboratively to drive innovation across UKRI's component parts.

## Desirable criteria

- Operational experience in service delivery or equivalent evidence that demonstrates the capability to effectively run a major public body.



# Equality, diversity and inclusion

Only by recognising and nurturing everyone and introducing diversity into the way we interact can we enrich our lives as creators of knowledge. We can then better understand the world around us and be empowered to tackle the many challenges we face as individuals and as communities, nationally and globally.

A dynamic, diverse and inclusive research and innovation system must be an integral part of UK society, giving everyone the opportunity to participate and to benefit.

Everyone has an important contribution to make – the researchers and innovators, and the wider support system including the technical and administrative support, and those who maintain our infrastructure.

UKRI is a diverse workforce of people. We believe that encouraging these differences and drawing the best from them will create a productive environment in which everyone feels valued, where talents are fully utilised and in which organisational goals are met.

Underpinning this is a belief that it is a fundamental right for everyone to be treated equally, with fairness, respect and dignity. UKRI will act directly and use its influence to ensure that this right is promoted and upheld; we welcome applications from all those who meet the criteria set-out in our role profiles.



# The Seven Principles Underpinning Public Life

The Seven Principles of Public Life outline the ethical standards those working in the public sector are expected to adhere to. They were first set out by Lord Nolan in 1995 in [the first report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life](#) and they are included in a range of codes of conduct across public life.

All candidates are expected to demonstrate a commitment to, and an understanding of, the value and importance of the principles of public service which are:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Further information on the principles of public life can be found [here](#).

## Conflicts of interest

Public Appointments require the highest standards of propriety, involving impartiality, integrity and objectivity, in relation to stewardship of public funds and the oversight and management of all related activities. This means that any private, voluntary, charitable or political interest that might be material and relevant to the work of the body concerned should be declared.

It is important that those appointed as members of public bodies maintain the confidence of Parliament and the public. If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment, or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, it is important that you bring them to the attention of the Assessment Panel and provide details of the issue(s) in your application. In considering whether you wish to declare any issues, you should also reflect on any public statements you have made, including through social media. The Panel may explore issues with you before they make a recommendation on the appointment.

As part of UKRI's due diligence checks they will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This will include undertaking searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. This information may be made available to the Panel, and they may wish to explore issues with you, should you be invited to interview.



# Terms of appointment

**Appointment Term:** Up to four years – to be discussed at interview – with the possibility of reappointment.

**Remuneration:** £215,000 plus opportunity for performance related pay capped at £17,500.

**Time Commitment:** Full time.

**Location:** It is anticipated that the Executive Chair will be predominantly based in UKRI's London and Swindon offices. However, the role will require regular travel around the UK and internationally.

*This is a Public Appointment by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology. The post holder would be an officeholder and an employee of UKRI.*

## Panel members

Eleanor Taylor (Director, Science Research and Innovation Directorate, DSIT) – Panel Chair

Nigel Toon (Board Member, UKRI) – UKRI Representative

Charlotte Crosswell (Chair, Centre for Finance, Innovation and Technology) - Senior Independent Panel Member

## How to apply

Saxton Bampfylde Ltd is acting as an employment agency advisor to UKRI on this appointment.

Candidates should apply for this role through our website at [www.saxbam.com/jobs](http://www.saxbam.com/jobs) using code **AAYIP2**.

Click on the '**apply**' button and follow the instructions to upload a CV and cover letter and complete the application and equal opportunities monitoring\* form.

The closing date for applications is **midday on Monday 7 October 2024**.

*\* The equal opportunities monitoring online form will not be shared with anyone involved in assessing your application. Please complete as part of the application process.*

Saxton Bampfylde