

Review of government funded research and innovation in Wales begins

A review of government-funded research and innovation in Wales has begun its work today (Wednesday 5th April).

Wednesday 05 April 2017

The highly respected Professor Graeme Reid from University College London has been asked by the Welsh Government to lead the review that will look at the strengths, gaps and future potential to sustain and grow strong research and innovation activity in Wales.

The review will:

- Look to identify patterns and themes in the development of business and public services in Wales which draw on research and innovation strengths in Wales and further afield and will report back next winter
- Collate the results of recent analyses of research and innovation activity in Wales.
- Consider how firms, public services and research groups in universities connect locally and globally to support the needs of Welsh communities, business and the economy. It will also consider how the connections and interactions between these groups can be improved to enable Wales to become a more entrepreneurial state.

Education Secretary Kirsty Williams said:

“I am delighted Professor Reid is leading this exciting review of research and innovation investment made by Welsh Government. Our aim is to make sure that every penny we invest in this area delivers the maximum benefit to the people and economy of Wales. I am looking forward to the education sector, business, learners and other getting involved.”

Julie James said:

“The aim of this review is to look at all the investment the Welsh Government makes into research and innovation and how it is making a difference and what we can do to change things for the future as this area is vital to Wales’ prosperity.”

Professor Reid said:

“Thriving research and innovation are key to the future economy and society of Wales

“Brexit, the Industrial Strategy and UK legislation on Higher Education & Research will bring significant changes to the environment for government-funded research and innovation in Wales. This review will explore how the Government, universities and business in Wales can influence and respond to these changes, both creating opportunities and mitigating threats.

“The review will aim to report early in 2018, before UKRI is created formally and while Brexit negotiations are still underway.”

Professor Reid will be supported by a distinguished panel of advisors who will meet for the first time today in Cardiff.

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