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Dear Research Partner,

As you will be aware, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union in the referendum held on 23rd June. However, The University of Nottingham remains committed to its many existing partnerships with valued collaborators across Europe and the world, and is also strongly supportive of potential future collaborations.

The European Commission and Horizon 2020 have been a catalyst for many such important collaborations, and this remains the case. As European Commissioner, Carlos Moedas, said on 1 July 2016: "For the time being, I would like to reassure (researchers in the UK) that the referendum as such doesn't change anything regarding their eligibility for funding under Horizon 2020."

Our links with the EU are hugely important to this University. Staff and students from the EU are a big part of the institution and have helped to make The University of Nottingham the successful global institution it is today, as have our extensive research collaborations under Horizon 2020, FP7 and previous research programmes.

The result of the EU Referendum does not change the need for, and the potential of mutually beneficial sharing of ideas and cooperation, and nor, critically, does it change the fact that internationally excellent research is being carried out at The University of Nottingham. Your Nottingham research partner can continue to bring his or her unique experience, ideas, expertise, industry/innovation partners and links to Third Country partners to your joint research projects regardless of political changes.

Also unchanged is our administrative excellence in managing projects on which we lead, and handling our role in those where we are a partner. Our central EU

Team's extensive experience means we are very much a safe pair of hands in terms of the legal, financial and administrative requirements of EU-funded projects. The University is also a holder of the EU 'HR Excellence in Research Award', sharing as we do the EU's goals in supporting the international career development of researchers.

The majority of feedback from the academic community here at Nottingham suggests that individuals in the UK and the rest of Europe strongly wish to continue with their fruitful partnerships. Nottingham, along with other world-class UK universities, is making every effort to ensure the UK Government, the European Union and member state national governments recognise international collaboration on research and innovation is key to solving the global problems the world is facing, encourage Government institutions in the UK and EU to agree on a way to facilitate such collaboration in the future. While the current uncertainty could have a negative impact on such collaboration, I believe it is imperative for us all to play our part in continuing to work together to demonstrate its value. Should UK-EU research cooperation decline in the short term, it will become more difficult to justify it as essential.

On 13th August, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer announced "where UK organisations bid directly to the European Commission on a competitive basis for EU funded projects while we are still a member of the EU, for example universities participating in Horizon 2020, the Treasury will underwrite the payments of such awards, even when specific projects continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU". This statement represents further reassurance for pipeline proposals.

I urge you to continue to consider Nottingham's excellence and eligibility for EU funding in your strategic planning, and I invite you to continue to talk to your Nottingham research partners about the challenges that face us. Should you have concerns or issues around continued collaboration and funding please discuss this with your Nottingham contacts, and The University of Nottingham's central team (contact Matthew Rackley (matthew.rackley@nottingham.ac.uk)) will seek to support you and your Nottingham collaborator in overcoming any obstacles.

Yours sincerely



Professor Sir David Greenaway
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