

12 March 2026

**Letter of commitment to the priorities of the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice**

I, Professor Richard A. Williams, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of Heriot-Watt University confirm our commitment to the priority areas outlined in the Concordat for the Environmental Sustainability of Research and Innovation Practice.

Heriot-Watt University fully supports the priority areas outlined in the concordat. We will deliver against all the priorities in practice and recognise our responsibilities as a signatory, as set out in the concordat.

By signing this concordat we recognise the need to change how we conduct research and innovation as well as promote wider solutions. We also agree to take shared action now and into the future to reduce and eliminate our own environmental impacts and emissions and achieve the transition to sustainable practices.

The concordat aligns closely with our established Global Environmental Sustainability Strategy and the priorities outlined in our Climate Action Framework. Our Framework reinforces our values by placing our global community and our partnerships at its core. Our ambitions are further supported by the establishment of the University Committee for Global Environmental Sustainability in 2024, which brings together expertise from across our global campuses to guide the delivery and ongoing development of our strategy. These priorities are reinforced through Heriot-Watt University's Ten Institutional Commitments, designed to drive positive change and support progress toward net-zero operational emissions.

We are already taking meaningful steps toward a more sustainable future, including delivering a challenge-based climate advocacy course, forming dedicated working groups on campus decarbonisation and waste prevention, and installing air-source heat pumps in Edinburgh student accommodation with support from Scotland's Public Sector Heat Decarbonisation Fund. Our research and innovation leadership is reflected in UK-wide initiatives such as IDRIC (Industrial Decarbonisation Research and Innovation Centre) and TransiT (Digital Twinning for Digital Decarbonisation), as well as through our iNetZ+ Global Research Institute, which brings together interdisciplinary expertise to drive real-world impact.

We reaffirm our commitment to sustainability and our shared ambition to accelerate meaningful, collaborative action for a more sustainable future.

Yours sincerely,



**Principal and Vice Chancellor**  
**Professor Richard A. Williams CBE FREng FRSE FTE**

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