

transferred to our Department for Education and Science, and consolidated with the existing provision there.

We will deliver real increases in science spending throughout the Parliamentary term. We see the Research Councils as the primary conduit for effective investment by the state in scientific research, and will support other useful projects, in particular 'blue-skies' research that the private sector is unable to undertake. We will also fund independent research necessary for effective policy in controversial areas.

We will encourage businesses to forge links with universities and support collaborative ventures exemplified by the Cambridge science park. We believe that the combination of skilled local workers, trained scientists, and attractive civic facilities result in worthwhile synergies. We do not believe government needs to fund or otherwise intervene centrally to facilitate these ventures. US universities are renowned for cultivating and incubating entrepreneurs as much as for their science, and it is with these institutions the UK can and must compete.

3. What will your party do to create the conditions in which companies from a wide spectrum of industries see the UK as one of the best places in the world to invest in science and engineering?

Whilst we will scrap the DTI, we recognise that it is home to a number of important functions, agencies and executive bodies.

Our Minister for Business will oversee the development of the framework for corporate activity. They will promote UK exports and represent our interests in supranational groups such as WTO and GATT.

Community investment programmes and business support will be delivered directly by the Regional Development Agencies. We see this as an effective decentralisation that will allow the agencies, in partnership with local businesses, councils and chambers of commerce, to respond more flexibly to opportunities and conditions in their areas.

We are committed to freeing business from unnecessary red-tape, and will create a Deregulation Unit to assess the impact of any proposed new regulation. It will be at arms length, ensuring independence in reporting.

I hope that this is helpful,

Yours sincerely,



Jessica David
Leader's Correspondence Unit