



Funding for Equivalent or Lower Qualifications (ELOs)

Response to the Innovation, University and Skills Committee

1. The Campaign for Science & Engineering is pleased to submit written evidence to the Innovation, University and Skills Committee. CaSE is a voluntary organisation campaigning to improve the health of science and engineering in the UK. It is supported by over 1,200 individual members, and some 70 institutional members, including universities, learned societies and companies.
2. CaSE strongly supports the need to continue public funding for students who study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects as an equivalent or lower qualification (ELQ). If the proposal to withdraw funding for ELQs is implemented, CaSE believes that all STEM subjects should be made exempt from it.
3. The current HEFCE proposal is to give an additional allocation of funding to support students studying strategic and vulnerable subjects (SIVS), which includes STEM subjects. Although CaSE supports the recognition that STEM subjects should be protected from any withdrawal of funding for ELQs, it is concerned about how the additional funding allocation will work in practice. The additional allocation needs to appropriately compensate institutions for increasing the uptake up of STEM subjects as ELQs. It is also critical that all science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects are classified as strategic and vulnerable subjects (SIVS) for allocating funding for ELQs. The proposal for protecting SIVS will be reviewed in 2010 – 2011. It is important that HEFCE and the government make clear that STEM subjects will be protected past this date so that students and institutions can plan for the future.
4. STEM subjects are recognised by government, industry and society as critically important to the future of the UK. CaSE encourages the Committee to clarify how any proposed changes to ELQ funding would protect students who wish to study STEM subjects. CaSE believes this would be best achieved by making all STEM subjects exempt from any withdrawal of funding for ELQs.

January 2008

Chairman: Professor Hugh Griffiths FREng **Director:** Nick Dusic

Advisory Council :

Sir George Alberti
Sir Geoffrey Allen FRS FREng
Prof S Arnott CBE FRS
Sir Eric Ash CBE FRS FREng
Sir James Black OM FRS
Professor V Bruce OBE FRSE
Jane Cannon MBE
Dr Simon Campbell FRS FRSC
Prof Roger Cashmore CMG FRS

Sir David Cox FRS
Prof A Cullen OBE FRS FREng
Sir Brian Follett FRS
Dr Ian Gibson MP
Professor Julia Goodfellow
Professor Diana Green CBE FRSA
Prof Wendy Hall CBE FREng
Prof A Hewish FRS
Prof Dame Julia Higgins FRS REng

Prof C Humphreys FREng
Dr Tom Inch FRSC
Professor Aaron Klug OM FRS
Sir Hans Kornberg FRS
Sir Harold Kroto FRS
Prof Joe Lamb FRSE
Prof Kim Nasmyth FRS
Lord Lewis of Newnham FRS
Sir C Llewellyn Smith FRS

Sir John Maddox
Prof Lord May of Oxford OM FRS
Prof Bob Michell MRCVS
Sir Paul Nurse FRS
Dame Bridget Ogilvie
Prof Linda Partridge CBE FRSE
Prof Hugh Pennington FRSE
Lord Rees of Ludlow FRS
Prof Martyn Poliakoff FRS

Sir Derek Roberts FRS FREng
Baroness Sharp of Guildford
Dr Gill Samuels CBE
Dr Simon Singh
Sir David Smith FRS
Sir Richard Sykes FRS
Ian Taylor MBE MP
Professor Sir John Walker FRS
Sir Gregory Winter CBE, FRS
Dr Ivan Yates CBE FREng