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## Chancellor's report fails to deliver what was promised in the Budget

Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) today welcomed the Chancellor of the Exchequer's emphasis on science in his pre-Budget report, but was disappointed that he ducked some of the key decisions.

"Once again, Gordon Brown mentioned the excellence of UK science and education near the beginning of his speech," said Dr Peter Cotgreave, Director of CaSE, "and recognised the economic importance of knowledge.

"But in terms of **universities**, £60 million for applied research is not going to solve their financial problems. It won't save financially struggling science departments from closure. It doesn't even look like new money.

"The changes to research assessment are not entirely clear, but at least there is a commitment to a lighter touch approach.

*"We were hoping Gordon Brown would say something about how to make the Government's billions of pounds of **procurement** spending more effective at supporting innovation, and are disappointed that he didn't."*

On **medical research**, Peter Cotgreave commented: "I think the medical research community will be relieved that there is not to be some major reorganisation of the deckchairs. Turning the National Institute of Health Research into a real institute with a properly defined role is the right decision - it is also fair enough to ensure that work to translate research into new treatments gets decent increases out of any new money. But although there is a section on ensuring the NHS takes up new technologies as soon as possible, there is nothing about making sure the UK will really be at the forefront of the major breakthroughs from which those technologies might come."

CaSE welcomed the Chancellor's commitment to enhance **skills**, but said the details of his announcement did not make it clear what would be done to make sure that the workforce got the science and engineering skills it needs. "In his Budget last March, the Chancellor set out challenging targets to increase numbers of science teachers and students, but he failed to tell us today how the Government is going to achieve them," said Peter Cotgreave.

*"It's difficult to see how we can be 'the most educated nation in the world' when a quarter of schools teaching 11 to 16 year olds do not have a qualified physics teacher."*

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