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CaSE PR 07/03

**Chancellor's statement holds out hope of reversal of recent decline  
in support for science**

Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) today welcomed the Chancellor's decision in his Budget to overturn recent policies to reduce investment in Britain's scientific and technological future.

"By announcing an increase in the Science Budget over the coming years," said Dr Peter Cotgreave, Director of CaSE, "Gordon Brown has made it clear he is not really happy with the DTI's decision to cut the science budget next year. Science minister Malcolm Wicks said this morning the cuts had been undesirable, and the Chancellor seems to agree."

"However it is a shame the specific cuts themselves will not be immediately reversed.

CaSE also supported the Chancellor's increase in tax credit for research and development, especially since it comes on top of a cut in the headline level of corporation tax, not as an alternative to it.

"If the UK's economy is to succeed in the coming years and decades, we need to ensure that this country is seen by science and engineering-based business as a attractive and competitive place to come," said Peter Cotgreave, "that means competitive tax rates and a world-beating science base."

CaSE was disappointed the Chancellor did not mention public procurement in his speech. "Everyone from the Prime Minister downwards says that we need to use public procurement – billions of pounds a year – to support innovation in the economy, but we never seem to get any specific proposals to do something about it," said Peter Cotgreave

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