



Press release immediate: 28 June 2007

CaSE PR 07/06

### **Science in government will need strong links between ministries**

Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) was today pleased the Prime Minister recognised the importance of science by creating a ministry with innovation at its heart, but urged that to be effective, the new department will need to create fresh and robust mechanisms for sustaining strong links with schools and business policy.

“Putting innovation and science right at the centre of a major Whitehall ministry is an excellent idea,” said Dr Peter Cotgreave, Director of CaSE, “but there are real problems with science education in schools, so the new Secretary of State for Children & Schools is also going to have to spend a lot of time focusing on science.

“And if the new Business & Enterprise ministry is going to succeed in its stated goal of ‘creating the conditions for business success’ it will have to make sure the UK is seen by industry as an attractive place for science investment. It won’t be able just to leave science and engineering issues to the Department of Innovation, Universities and Schools.

CaSE pointed out that by bringing together universities with science policy in a single department, the Prime Minister was putting into one place the two halves of the traditional ‘dual support’ system of funding science. “One of the strengths of the dual support method is that two very distinct streams of money fund research, giving researchers the chance to seek support for different kinds of projects,” said Peter Cotgreave, “Putting both lots of money under the control of a single Cabinet Minister is not necessarily a bad idea, but John Denham is going to have to ensure that the two halves remain distinct and that both sustain high levels of funding’.

CaSE looks forward to early meetings with all of the new ministries with interests in science policy.

ENDS