



Press release immediate: 12 March 2008

CaSE PR 08/03

Budget 2008

Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) today welcomed the Chancellor's commitment to science and science education in this year's Budget. The new Chancellor mentioned science 7 times in his speech, beating Gordon Brown's average of 5, although the former Chancellor's career high was 18.

Commenting on the Budget announcement Nick Dusic, CaSE's Director, said "The Chancellor highlighted the UK's history of scientific invention as central to the UK's success in the global economy. It is critical that tomorrow's innovation white paper puts investing in science and engineering at the heart of the Government's new innovation agenda. The UK needs to redouble its efforts to produce highly skilled graduates and cutting-edge research."

CaSE welcomed the Chancellor's commitment to investing in science and innovation. However, the funding crisis brought on by the **Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)** budget and delivery plan needs to be resolved. Commenting, Nick Dusic, said, "the STFC funding crisis is threatening the UK's standing as an international partner of choice and leader in physics and astronomy research. If left unresolved there will be serious knock on effects for the viability of certain university departments and the training of highly skilled scientists."

CaSE was delighted to hear the Government pledge £10 million to **Project Enthuse** to be matched with £20 million from The Wellcome Trust and business. This project is to develop the skills of all secondary school science teachers. Commenting, Nick Dusic, said "this needs to be targeted at schools in particular need of boosting their skills, typically those in disadvantaged areas. Hopefully, this funding includes money to retrain science teachers to develop specialisms in the shortage subjects that most need them, notably physics, mathematics and chemistry."

Nick Dusic, said, "The **research charities** will be relieved that they will not lose gift aid income for the next three years, as the tax rate drops from 22% to 20%. Given the success of the scheme in encouraging giving and the importance of research charity funding for science, we hope that this commitment can be extended into the future."

CaSE welcomed announcements to support **SME research and development** through tax credits and public procurement.

CaSE welcomes the **Sainsbury Review** recommendations will be implemented. Commenting, Nick Dusic, said "Unfortunately there was no commitment for Government Departments to increase their investment in science and engineering, which is critical to evidence-based policy."

ENDS

Notes to Editors



1. For further information, please contact Nick Dusic, Director of the Campaign for Science & Engineering, on 07749 953041.
2. The Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) is a pressure group aiming to improve the health of science and engineering in the UK. Our objective is to communicate to Parliament and the nation as a whole the economic and cultural importance of science and engineering, and the vital need for its funding by government and industry. CaSE is supported by its members, which includes individuals, corporations, universities and learned societies. Further information on CaSE can be found at:
<http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk>
3. Information on the Budget can be found at:
http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/budget_08/bud_bud08_index.cfm