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CaSE PR 08/05

## CaSE response to the IUSS Committee report on Science Budget Allocations

Campaign for Science and Engineering welcomed today's report by the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee. Commenting on the report, Nick Dusic, Director of the Campaign for Science and Engineering, said, "The Government needs to respect the Haldane Principle and stop interfering with how Research Councils allocate their funding. The Science Budget Allocations targeted funding at various government priorities leaving most Research Councils unable to maintain their investment in fundamental research. The STFC was the hardest hit by this and the Government must now find a solution to the funding crisis in physics and astronomy before the UK's loses its scientific standing in these areas."

### Specific Comments

Commenting on the importance of **science funding**, CaSE's director, Nick Dusic, said, "Investing in science and engineering is critical to the future success of the UK. Although the Government increased science funding in its last science budget, it did not increase it enough to meet new commitments and maintain the health of the research base."

Commenting on the **Haldane principle**, Nick Dusic said, "The Government cannot have its cake and eat it too when it comes to the Haldane Principle. The Government is interfering with how Research Councils allocate their funding, whilst not taking responsibility for the repercussions. The Science Budget Allocations targeted funding at various government priorities leaving most Research Councils unable to maintain their investment in fundamental research. However, the Government used the Haldane Principle to justify not getting involved when things have gone wrong. The Haldane Principle should be used to maintain scientific independence, not to avoid government accountability."

Commenting on the **STFC funding crisis**, Nick Dusic said "The STFC funding crisis is putting the UK's scientific standing in jeopardy. The Government and the STFC need to find a solution to this crisis before permanent damage is made to scientific careers, international collaborations and world-leading research."

ENDS

### Notes to Editors

1. For further information, please contact Nick Dusic, Director of the Campaign for Science & Engineering, on 020 7679 4995 or 07749 953041.
2. The Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee report on Science Budget Allocations can be found:  
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmdius.htm>