



CaSE Press Release,

5th June 2009

Creation of Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

The Prime Minister has created a Department for Business, Innovation and Skills that incorporates science and innovation policy formerly within DIUS. Commenting on the change, Nick Dusic said:

“Science and engineering research and skills contribute to business and economic growth, but their contributions to the UK are also much wider. Lord Mandelson needs to clearly signal that investment in science and higher education will not be re-directed to support industrial priorities. There needs to be a consultation about developing strategies to commercialise science, which should include a proper debate about the implications of focussing research funding.

“The department has a wide remit so it is more critical than ever that the science budget is ring-fenced so that is protected from spending problems in other areas.”

It is unclear where the Government Office for Science is headed; it was located in DIUS. Commenting, Nick Dusic said “The Prime Minister should take the initiative and move the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Cabinet Office so that Professor Beddington can better pursue his cross-departmental role and be closer to Number 10.”

The House of Commons’ Science and Technology Committee was disbanded by the Government when it created the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Commenting Nick Dusic said “A House of Commons’ science and engineering committee needs to be established to provide proper scrutiny of science and engineering policy across government.”

Ends

Notes to editors

1. For further information, please contact Nick Dusic, Director of CaSE, on 020 7679 4995 or 07749 953041.
2. Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) is a policy advocate for science and engineering in the UK. CaSE is supported by its members, which includes individuals, corporations, universities and learned societies. Further information on CaSE can be found on our website: <http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk>