

## Letters from the EU Party Leaders 2014

*In the run-up to the 2014 European Elections, CaSE and Euroscience published the responses of the Conservatives, Labour, the Liberal Democrats, UKIP, the Green Party, Plaid Cymru and the SNP, to our questions on their EU science and engineering policies covering research, skills, innovation and evidence-based policymaking.*

### UKIP response from Roger Helmer MEP

Thank you for writing to me on the issue of UKIP's attitude to EU science and technology funding. As you know, it is a fundamental plank of our policy platform that the UK should leave the European Union. As such, we are not primarily concerned with planning or designing policy at the European level. As long as we remain in the EU, UKIP MEPs will however always take what action we can to support research in the UK and try to ensure that our country gets at least its fair share of available EU funding, and more if possible.

You make the point that EU funding is an important element in research funding in the UK. We would turn that point up-side down, and point out that every pound of EU funding received by projects in the UK typically costs the British economy around £3, when you consider the overall balance of EU membership net and gross costs, and offset the administrative costs of applying for, and managing, EU programmes. And then we end up spending the money on priorities that we may not have judged ideal if we had originated the programmes at home. They give us back a little of our own money, they tell us how to spend it, and then they expect us to be grateful.

We would argue strongly, therefore, that research in Britain would be substantially better funded in an independent Britain not subject to the costs of EU membership.