



**UK Research
and Innovation**

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[Sent by email alicia@sciencecampaign.org.uk, Stuart.Pritchard@ukri.org,
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17 March 2026

Dear Alicia,

Thank you for your letter of 23 February on behalf of CaSE and your members. I am grateful for the constructive way in which you and your colleagues have engaged with UKRI in recent weeks, and for CaSE's work during the Spending Review campaign to make the case for investment in R&D alongside others, as well as your engagement in the last few weeks. I welcome the opportunity to respond to the questions you raise and to provide clarity where possible.

Firstly, in relation to the high-level comparisons discussed at the Select Committee, we have now published a schematic showing a high-level mapping from our current budgeting structure to our new system. You can access the diagram here. I am pleased that you found the allocations schematic helpful and that you recognise that curiosity-driven research is growing, as reflected in your recent post: <https://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/analysis-and-publications/detail/high-level-mapping-and-past-comparisons/>

Secondly, as I outlined in a recent video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=osnqHbOywVY>), we have mapped each budget line to the bucket where it makes the biggest strategic impact. Naturally, almost all our interventions make some impact in each bucket, but to recognise the largest impact each makes, and to simplify accountability within the organisation, we have chosen the simplest attribution.

Thirdly, monitoring the capability of the UK research base is a shared responsibility. UKRI, in close partnership with the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, the Office for Students and the Department for Education, maintains oversight to ensure critical capabilities are preserved and that the R&D sector remains healthy and productive. Alignment across these organisations ensures coordinated decision making, particularly where research, skills, and higher education policy intersect. We also listen carefully to the views of organisations such as CaSE as part of this process.

Fourthly, regarding STFC, we are now in consultation with the community to understand the implications of any possible courses of action in order to reach a balanced forecast with respect to budget. This consultation process will take another three months, including various town hall events,



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meetings with advisory panels, the STFC Science Board and the STFC Council. The aim is to have completed that process by the end of June. Naturally, we want to balance the need for full and detailed consultation with the wish to proceed as quickly as possible and provide the certainty from which the whole community will benefit.

We also discussed showing a pipeline of forthcoming investment opportunities for your members. The first of these can be found here: [UKRI opportunities update from Professor Sir Ian Chapman](#). It sets out future competitions, and we aim to do this quarterly.

Finally, on studentships and Future Leaders Fellowships, budget allocations for both schemes increase significantly over the coming period. This ensures that numbers of new PhD starters are fully protected and that early career researchers continue to have a secure path. Supporting talent remains a key priority, and we are committed to safeguarding these pipelines as the wider funding structures evolve.

I recognise that transitions of this scale generate uncertainty. UKRI remains committed to openness, rigorous analysis, and close collaboration with the community. I look forward to continuing the dialogue with CaSE members as this work progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Chapman', written in a cursive style.

Professor Ian Chapman

Chief Executive, UK Research and Innovation