

Chris McDonald MP
Minister of State for Science, Innovation and Investment
Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade
London

11 August 2026

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of State for Science, Innovation and Investment. I am writing to introduce myself and Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) and to request a meeting at your earliest convenience to discuss your priorities in your new role and how CaSE and its members can support your work.

As a chemical engineer with extensive experience in industrial research and innovation, I am sure you have seen first-hand the contribution that the R&D system makes to economic growth, sustainability and societal benefit.

I know that you would agree that a stable and predictable plan, supported by sustained investment and a coordinated cross-government approach, is vital to help research and innovation thrive in a way that drives economic growth and prosperity across the UK. Your joint role is an encouraging move that provides an opportunity for better alignment across research and societal outcomes. Realising the full potential of research and innovation requires close partnership across science, skills and economic policy.

I urge you to continue to protect curiosity-led and discovery research within the new larger department. It is important that the Government provides clarity on responsibility for UKRI, research funding and long-term R&D strategy as soon as possible to avoid uncertainty for universities, institutes and businesses. Alongside funding, international collaboration, including association to Framework Programme 10, will be essential to deliver the UK's R&D ambitions.

Our [extensive research into public attitudes to R&D](#) reveals the political opportunity to tell a more compelling and locally-rooted story about how R&D improves lives. Our nationally-representative polling of UK adults has shown:

- **The breadth of support for public investment** - 88% think it is important for the Government to invest money into R&D
- **The unmet appetite to showcase this investment in every postcode** – 70% would like to hear more about R&D being done in their area
- **The potential for local impact** – 83% could identify advantages from more R&D being in their local area, citing local economic growth, opportunities for young people, and well-paid jobs

I would be delighted to meet with you at the earliest opportunity to discuss your priorities in your role and how CaSE and its members can support your work.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Alicia Greated
Executive Director

About CaSE

Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) is the leading independent voice for UK R&D.

We are a charity supported by a diverse membership including businesses, universities, professional bodies, research charities and individuals. Our members span the whole breadth of R&D – including discovery research, science, engineering, and innovation across the public, private, and charitable sectors.

We collaborate with our members, partners and the public to lend our clear, expert voice to decisions about research and development. We specialise in developing non-partisan, responsive solutions that help research and innovation to thrive in ways that improve people's lives and livelihoods.