

The Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for Business, Science, Innovation and Trade

22 July 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade. It was great to meet you this morning and thank you for taking time to meet me, and other science leaders across the sector, so early on in your tenure.

As we discussed this morning, R&D is a critical driver of economic growth, productivity and competitiveness. Last year's Industrial Strategy which you oversaw during your time as Business Secretary has strong commitments to R&D throughout and puts it at the forefront of driving economic growth. The Strategy provides welcome signalling of intent, which is vital to help research and innovation thrive in a way that improves people's lives and livelihoods. For UK research and innovation to thrive, commitment to stable funding and investment in R&D must remain unchanged and it is essential decisions are taken with a long-term view.

Bringing science and business policy together is a fantastic opportunity for better alignment between discovery research, commercialisation and industrial strategy. We were pleased to see you emphasise that science will be at the forefront of the new department. I urge you to continue to protect curiosity-led and discovery research within a 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.

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*

We urge you to continue to work with the R&D sector in the coming months to develop long-term plans as part of a wider strategic framework for R&D. I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss your ambitions for UK science and innovation and how CaSE can support your work.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Alicia Greated FIET FRSE

Executive Director

Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE)

The Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) advocates for R&D, for the benefit of lives and livelihoods. We are a charity supported by a diverse membership of over 100 organisations including businesses, universities, professional bodies, research charities as well as individual scientists and engineers. Our members span the whole breadth of R&D – including discovery research, science, engineering, and innovation across the public, private, and charitable sectors.