

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister

22 July 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on becoming leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister.

As you and your new Government pursue your goals, I urge you to draw on the research and development (R&D) sector as a lever for growth and job creation, a tool for improving quality of life in every postcode, and – crucially – a story of hope for a better future.

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 position R&D at the heart of your ambitions to revitalise the country. Our [Place 2025](#) briefing offers detailed recommendations for strengthening the UK's regional R&D including the role universities play in local economies. CaSE represents the breadth of the R&D sector including universities but also businesses, research charities and research institutes. Our members are uniquely positioned, both within the R&D system and geographically across the UK, to create new jobs and future industries, new educational opportunities, and the economic growth that will pay for our local and public services.

The UK and the R&D sector have faced many political changes over recent years. To thrive, our sector needs a continued commitment to stable investment and long-term decisions. A stable plan, backed by sustained investment, will unlock R&D as a driver for local economic growth and give businesses the confidence to invest. Bringing science and business policy together creates opportunities for greater alignment between R&D and industrial strategy, but curiosity-led and discovery research must continue to be protected.

We look forward to working with your Government on your plans for the UK's R&D sector.

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

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engineers. Our members span the whole breadth of R&D – including discovery research, science, engineering, and innovation across the public, private, and charitable sectors.