

16 January, 2007

The Rt. Hon. John Denham MP  
Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills  
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
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CC: Ian Pearson MP

**STFC Funding Deficit: DIUS Reply to Young Researcher's Letter**

Dear Secretary of State,

As I am sure you are aware, we recently received a reply from Ian Pearson MP in response to the letter sent to you on behalf of the UK's young researcher community. I do not know if you read the reply prior to it being sent, but I enclose a copy to ensure that you have seen it.

We feel collectively insulted by the content of the reply. To send a letter from your department that seems to be composed from badly copied segments from other communications, with little or no editing or proof-reading seems to throw doubt on the diligence of those in your department who drew it up and therefore on the advice you received on the CSR settlement for the STFC. It reflects badly on the regard and concern the Minister has for these issues and how they will impact on the morale and future careers of the country's future scientists.

The letter does nothing to answer or address the concerns we expressed and fails to acknowledge that the young researcher community, as a key stakeholder of STFC, is an informed and intelligent body. This reply, unfortunately, only serves to back up the concerns and issues we raised in our original letter that the future careers of this body of young scientists are not a concern of your department.

We understand the Haldane principle, that ministers should not directly address the specifics of science funding. We would be very grateful if you could highlight how the plans outlined in the present STFC delivery plan are aligned to your wider agenda to encourage more young people to take up science and what steps your department is taking to restore the morale, further undermined by Dr. Pearson's letter, of the young scientists within STFC?

Yours sincerely,

James Jackson on behalf of the UK young researcher community  
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