

Duncan Wingham
Natural Environment Research Council
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon
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From the President Paul Nurse

12th October 2012
Our ref: PN/ABR

Dear Duncan,

The Royal Society has noted NERC's plans to merge the British Antarctic Survey and National Oceanographic Centre and the grounds for this merger as set out in the public consultation. The Royal Society strongly urges NERC to ensure that support for the highest quality science is at the core of any plans for the future configuration of BAS and NOC, fostering world class research across the whole spectrum. The scientific case needs to be fully explained, indicating clearly how the merger will benefit science before proceeding. This is crucial given the significant opposition to the merger being expressed by BAS scientists familiar with Antarctic science. NERC needs to convince this community that the merger will promote higher quality polar science.

Yours sincerely



Paul Nurse

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cc: Julie Maxton, Executive Director

