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Dear David

As you are aware, representatives from our organisations met at the Royal Society on 9 September to discuss the reactions to the recent announcements by EPSRC in its funding policy. We acknowledge that EPSRC has a significant challenge in determining how to allocate its reduced budget following the Spending Review. We are keen to work with you to ensure that EPSRC can continue to maintain the trust and support of the diverse scientific and engineering communities that it funds.

Given the concerns expressed about the process and communication around the first tranche of the 'Shaping Capability' strategy, we recommend to you that EPSRC pauses the exercise to give time both for wider consultation and for you to consider further the implications of these policy changes on UK research before moving further forward. We would be happy to arrange meetings with experts from the different disciplines covered by EPSRC to assist with this process if you think this will be helpful.

We also wanted to let you know that our organisations will be looking afresh at the broader principles behind the prioritisation of research council funding. We will of course share the outcomes of these discussions with Adrian and yourself, to assist you in identifying how research can bring the greatest long-term benefits to our economy and society.

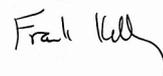
Yours sincerely,



Sir Paul Nurse,  
President, Royal Society



Sir Peter Knight,  
President, Institute of Physics



Professor Frank Kelly,  
President, Council for the  
Mathematical Sciences



Sir John Parker,  
President, Royal  
Academy of Engineering



Professor David Phillips,  
President, Royal Society  
of Chemistry



Professor Andy Hopper,  
Deputy President, Institution  
of Engineering & Technology