



Science is Vital Petition

33,804 Signatures

14th October 2010

We the undersigned petition the Government to recognize that science is vital and to not reduce science funding.

Science investment in the UK is a crucial driver of our economy. It supports first-rate facilities and excellent technical expertise, and is overwhelmingly concentrated on world-class research. Cutting investment risks putting all this in jeopardy — especially at a time when our competitors, such as the US, China, Germany, and France, are increasing their science funding.

The UK has a proud history of scientific excellence, and produces over 10% of global scientific output with only 1% of the global population. We will increasingly have to rely on our intellectual capital to be competitive in the 21st century. Re-balancing our economy into one that is focused on science and engineering, and that can solve forthcoming challenges in energy, medicine, infrastructure, computing – as well as satisfying the drive for new knowledge – must be a priority for the nation.

We therefore call on the Government to recognize that science is vital, and to lay out a supportive strategy for UK science and engineering, maintaining a level of investment at least in line with economic growth. To do otherwise is to risk an unprecedented scientific crisis.

Please note that the petition signatures were printed at 1.30pm on Wednesday 13th October 2010 for submission to Number 10, Downing Street. The petition will remain open and, 24 hours after printing, has already attracted a further 1,000 signatures.

The following organizations endorse the Science is Vital petition:

Anatomical Society
Royal Astronomical Society
Society for Applied Microbiology
Association of Medical Research Charities
Association for Science Education
British Astronomical Association
The Biochemical Society
The BioIndustry Association
Society of Biology
Breakthrough Breast Cancer
Breast Cancer Campaign
British Ecological Society
The Cambridge Technology Community
Cancer Research UK
Society for Endocrinology & BioScientifica
Society for Experimental Biology
Faculty of 1000
Society for General Microbiology
British Heart Foundation
British Humanist Association
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
Kidney Research UK
University of Leicester
The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
Motor Neurone Disease Association
Namesco
Nature
The British Pharmacological Society
The British Psychological Society
Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
The Physiological Society
Prospect
British Science Association
British Society for Immunology
Trades Union Congress
University and College Union
Wellcome Trust
Zoological Society of London

Notable signatories on the petition include:

Professor Tim Blackburn, Director, Institute of Zoology
Dr Petra Boynton, Academic and Writer
Dr Michael Brooks, Science Journalist, Founder of the Science Party & former

Parliamentary Candidate

Professor Tanya Byron, Clinical Psychologist, Journalist, Broadcaster

Dr Philip Campbell, Editor in Chief, Nature, Nature Publishing Group

Professor Brian Cox, Physicist and Television Presenter

Professor Andrew Geim, Nobel Prize for Physics winner

Dr Ben Goldacre, Guardian Columnist, Author

Professor Malcolm Grant, UCL Provost (in a personal capacity)

Pamela Goldberg, Chief Executive of Breast Cancer Campaign

Mark Henderson, Science Editor, The Times

Roger Highfield, Editor, New Scientist

Robin Ince, Writer and comedian

Dr Kirstine Knox, Chief Executive, Motor Neurone Disease Association

Harpal Kumar, Chief Executive of Cancer Research UK

Sir Patrick Moore, CBE HonFRS FRAS

Lord Lewis of Newnham, Emeritus Prof Chemistry University Cambridge

Professor Denis Noble, FRS, Co-Founder, Save British Science

Sir Paul Nurse, FRS, President, Rockefeller University, Nobel laureate

Professor David Nutt, former Chairman of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs

Dara O Briain, Comedian

Lord Martin Rees, PRS, Master, Trinity College Cambridge

Dr Simon Singh, Author

Judith Willetts, Chief Executive, British Society for Immunology

Rebecca Wood, Chief Executive, Alzheimer's Research Trust

Members of Parliament who have signed the petition:

Heidi Alexander MP (Labour)

Luciana Berger MP (Labour)

Paul Blomfield MP (Labour)

Malcolm Chisholm MSP (Labour)

Vernon Coaker MP (Labour)

Jim Cunningham MP (Labour)

Tony Cunningham MP (Labour)

Jack Dromey MP (Labour)

Don Foster MP (Lib Dem)

Mary Glendon MP (Labour)

Mike Hancock MP (Lib Dem)

Sharon Hodgson MP (Labour)

Sir Gerlad Kaufman MP (Labour)

Mark Lazarowicz MP (Labour)

Ian Mearns MP (Labour)

Graeme Morrice MP (Labour)

Ian Murray MP (Labour)

Andy Slaughter MP (Labour)

Andrew Smith MP (Labour)

Stephen Twigg MP (Labour)

Hywel Williams MP (Plaid Cymru)

The following distinguished scientists and engineers have signed the petition:

Professor Michael Akam FRS
Professor Wiebke Arlt MD DSc FRCP FMedSc
Professor Fraser A Armstrong FRS
Professor Michael Ashburner FRS
Professor Alan Ashworth FRS
Professor David Attwell FRS
Professor Alan Baddeley FRS, CBE
Prof Sir David Baulcombe FRS FMedSci
Professor Mariann Bienz FRS FMedSci
Professor Colin Blakemore FRS FMedSci, Hon FRCP
Professor Michael R Blatt FRSE
Professor Tim Bliss FRS FMedSci
Professor Andrea Brand FRS FMedSci
Dr John M Brown FRS
Professor John Cardy FRS
Professor Richard Catlow FRS
Professor Keith F Chater FRS
Dr Cyrus Chothia FRS
Professor Stephen Clark FRSE
Professor Nicola S. Clayton FRS
Professor Graham Collingridge FRS
Professor David Colquhoun FRS
Professor Eleanor Dodson FRS
Professor Guy Dodson FRS, FMedSci.
Professor Peter Dornan FRS
Professor John Dowell FRS
Professor Julian Downward FRS
Professor Dougal Drysdale MRSC, FIFireE, CEng, FSFPE, FRSE
Professor George Efstathiou FRS
Professor John H D Eland FRS
Professor Philip Evans FRS
Professor Malcolm Ferguson-Smith FRS
Professor Chris Frith FRS
Professor Uta Frith FBA, FMedSci FRS
Professor C Robin Ganellin FRS
Professor David M. Glover FRS FRSE
Professor Michael Green FRS
Professor Hugh Griffiths FEng
Professor Stephen Halford FRS
Professor Roger Hardie FRS
Professor Graham J Hart FMedSci
Professor Cyril Hilsum CBE FRS FEng
Professor Herbert Huppert FRS
Professor John Kilmartin FRS
Professor Michael Land FRS
Professor Christopher J. Leaver CBE, FRS, FRSE
Professor David Leigh FRS
Professor Guy C Lloyd-Jones FRSC
Professor Andrew Lumsden FMedSci FRS
Professor Michael H. Malim FRS
Professor Martin McKee CBE FMedSci

Professor John G McWhirter FRS FREng
Professor Michael Morgan FRS
Professor Richard Morris CBE, FRS
Professor Philip Mountford FRSC
Lord Lewis of Newnham FRS
Professor Denis Noble FRS
Professor Dame Linda Partridge FMedSci FRS, DBE, CBE
Professor Laurence H. Pearl FMedSci FRS
Dr Hugh Pelham FRS
Professor Mark Pepys FRS FMedSci
Professor Terence Rabbitts FMedSci FRS
Professor Martin Raff CBE FRS
Professor Wolf Reik FRS FMedSci
Professor Daniela Rhodes FRS
Professor Elizabeth Robertson FRS
Professor Matthew Rosseinsky FRS
Professor Peter J. Sadler FRS
Professor Tim Shallice FRS
Professor David Sherratt FRS
Professor John P Simons FRS
Professor Sir David Smith FRS, FRSE
Professor Geoffrey L. Smith FRS
Professor Steve Sparks FRS
Professor Brian G. Spratt FRS
Professor Godfrey Stafford FRS
Professor Claudio D Stern FIBiol FMedSci, FRS
Professor Kenneth Alexander Strain FRSE
Dr Jesper Svejstrup FRS
Dr Martyn Thomas CBE FREng
Professor Chris Thiemermann FMedSci
Professor David Tollervey FRS
Professor Anthony Trewavas FRS
Professor Alan Watson FRS
Professor Cornelis J Weijer FRSE
Professor Lawrence Weiskrantz FRS
Professor Robin A Weiss FRS
Professor Thomas Wirth FRSC
Professor Lewis Wolpert CBE FRS FRSL
Professor Phil Woodruff FRS
Professor Eric Wright FRCPATH FRSE
Professor John A. Wyke FRSE FMedSci

The following Vice-Chancellors and Deans of Research have signed the petition:

Professor Stephen Holloway, Executive Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, University of Liverpool
Professor Richard Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, and Innovation, University of Sheffield

Professor Koen Lamberts, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, University of Warwick
Professor John MacIntyre, Dean and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Applied
Sciences, University of Sunderland

Professor Trevor McMillan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Lancaster University

Professor Don Nutbeam, Vice-Chancellor, University of Southampton

Professor David Phoenix OBE, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Central
Lancashire

Professor David Shepherd, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise), Bangor
University

Professor Phil Stephens , Vice-Dean of Research, School of Dentistry, Cardiff
University