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Dear Jennife, Stephen,

**SCIENCE BUDGET**

Thank you for your letter of 29 November. I recognise your concern resulting from recent reports in the press. As you say in your letter this Government has a history of strong support for science in recent years despite considerable financial pressures and I am proud of Britain's world leading Research Base.

In the recent spending review for financial year 15/16 the Government has announced a long term commitment to provide £1.1 billion of science capital funding, rising with inflation, to 2021. In his Autumn Statement on 5 December the Chancellor continued to reinforce this commitment by announcing additional funding for research into Quantum Technologies and research collaboration with emerging powers such as China and India

The Chancellor also said clearly that "Science is a personal priority of mine". We know we should back one of Britain's greatest successes and will continue to protect the science ringfence.

Yours Sincerely  
David Willetts

THE RT HON DAVID WILLETTS MP