



## **CaSE Briefing for Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change**

**20 October 2008**

The Campaign for Science and Engineering wants to draw your attention to the importance of putting science and engineering at the heart of your Department's work. DECC will have a significant requirement for science and engineering advice. The science and engineering community will be looking to you to take proactive decisions to put in place a strong scientific and engineering advisory system and departmental research capacity. The following actions are in line with best practice from other government departments:

### **1) Independent Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser**

Appointing an independent Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser (DCSA) should be your first action in this area. The DCSA will be a critical source of advice to you and a focal point for the science and engineering community to engage with. The DCSA needs to be a senior position within the Department. DECC should appoint a DCSA from outside of the civil service so that the person can bring an independent and expert perspective to the Department's work.

### **2) Scientific Advisory Council**

Major science departments, such as Defra and the MOD, have Scientific Advisory Councils to monitor and support the scientific and technical operations of the department. DECC should build upon this best practice and recruit members with expertise relevant to the Department's work.

### **3) Departmental R&D Budgets**

DECC needs to set aside funding for research and development (R&D) as part of its overall budget. Once a Departmental Chief Scientific Adviser has been appointed it should develop a science strategy in consultation with the science and engineering community to guide its R&D investment. In the run-up to the next Comprehensive Spending Review, DECC should have a clear position on the appropriate size of the R&D budget and how it will further its mission.

### **4) Science and Engineering Profession**

DECC needs to support scientists and engineers within the department and to recruit individuals with appropriate technical expertise to fill gaps. DECC should support secondments to bring outside scientists and engineers into the department and give civil servants the opportunity to work in academia or industry for a specified time.