



Science, Innovation
and Technology
Committee

Sarah Munby
Permanent Secretary
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

By email only

24 June 2025

Request for further information following Main Estimate submission and Spending Review announcements

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for submitting the Department's Main Estimate and accompanying memorandum for 2025–26. The Committee is keen to make fuller use of these documents throughout the course of this Parliament. However, their current utility is constrained by the structure of the subheadings.

As referenced in your letter dated 7 April 2025, the Committee acknowledges that the subheading structure is due to be revised for the 2025–26 Supplementary Estimate. We encourage the Department to engage with officials in the Parliamentary Scrutiny Unit to ensure that the revised format aligns with the Committee's requirements.

In addition, the Committee would welcome a more detailed explanation of the Department's income sources and trends. Under section 4.2 of the Estimate Memorandum ("Additional Specific Information Required by the Select Committee"), we request a breakdown of expected income, identifying the source of each stream, accompanied by recent trend analysis and explanatory commentary.

The Committee also seeks clarification on which elements of departmental income—particularly those received in the form of dividends—are transferred directly to the Consolidated Fund and which are retained by the Department.

Furthermore, in light of the Chancellor's Spending Review announcements on 11 June 2025, the Committee would appreciate responses to the following:

1. Spending Review allocation

Could the Department provide a detailed breakdown of how it intends to allocate



and prioritise its Spending Review settlement? This should be presented in tabular form, showing allocations across both resource and capital budgets for the duration of the current Parliament. In line with the earlier request regarding subheading revisions, the Committee would also appreciate a separate breakdown of the UKRI settlement within this allocation.

2. **Administrative budget reductions**

How does the Department intend to maintain its capacity to deliver complex R&D programmes and provide effective policy oversight in light of a projected 15% real-terms reduction to its administration budget by 2029–30? Specifically, £45 million is expected to be saved through “organisational effectiveness.” In this context, how will the Department ensure that reductions in headcount—particularly among Senior Civil Servants—and changes to the staff grade mix do not compromise strategic leadership, institutional knowledge, or programme delivery?

Finally, the Committee seeks clarification on the following:

- **Use of core funding in relation to ODA**

Since the introduction of the ODA budget cap, has the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology used its core departmental funding to support projects that would otherwise have been funded through Official Development Assistance? If so, please provide further details

I would be grateful if you could respond to this request by 4 July.

Yours sincerely,

Chi Onwurah MP
Chair – Science, Innovation and Technology Committee