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Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
House of Commons
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Dear Greg,

## **Establishing a National Academy for Mathematical Sciences (NAM)**

We are writing to inform you about significant developments that have been made regarding Government funding to support the establishment of a new National Academy focused on Mathematical Sciences (NAM). You may recall that in the Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023, the Government announced funding of up to £6 million to support the establishment of a new NAM.

Government support to establish a NAM seeks to build upon the recommendation of Professor Philip Bond's independent review 'The Era of Mathematics Review' and was committed to as part of the Government response to the independent Review of the Research, Development and Innovation organisational Landscape, led by Sir Paul Nurse.

The Government has consistently emphasised how essential it is to build mathematical capabilities in the UK. Last year, the Prime Minister announced an ambition for all young people up to age 18 to study mathematics, ensuring they are equipped with the right knowledge and skills to thrive in the modern economy. This is fundamental to scientific discovery, our economy and prosperity, and for young people to be able to use mathematics to build an understanding of the world around them.

We believe a dedicated NAM will galvanise our existing world-class Mathematical Sciences community and encourage individuals from across the UK to see mathematics in a new light, utilising its immense opportunities.

On 12 January 2024, the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology (DSIT) published a <u>call for evidence</u> to determine the best way to support a NAM and identify whether DSIT's proposed objectives for a NAM were fit for purpose. The consultation period ran for six weeks and was accompanied by DSIT led webinars and roundtables including over 100 people with key roles in the sector. Feedback from the sector demonstrated strong and broad support for the objectives and highlighted the need for a NAM to act as a single organisation to convene the Mathematical Sciences sector.

DSIT responded to this call for evidence on <u>27 March 2024</u>. The consultation highlighted overwhelming support from the sector to establish a NAM. As part of the response DSIT refined the objectives for a NAM based on the feedback received and invited the sector to comment on draft NAM requirements by 10 April 2024.

DSIT will launch an open competition on 7 May, based on finalised NAM requirements (please see these at Annex A) and offering grant funding of up to £6 million over a period of three years, for an organisation to support the establishment a new National Academy focused on Mathematical Sciences. The competition will run for four weeks, closing on 4 June 2024. The competition will be advertised on gov.uk and on the Government's 'find a grant page'. Please find attached an embargoed press notice for the open competition announcement on 7 May.

It is likely that DSIT will be in the position to announce the successful applicant before the summer recess, and the department will keep you updated.

I will place a copy of this letter and the finalised objectives and requirements in the libraries of the House.

Kind Regards,

Andrew Griffith MP

Minister of State for Science, Research and Innovation