



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister of State for Digital Government
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Department for Science, Innovation and
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22-26 Whitehall
London SW1A 2EG

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20 July 2026

Freddie van Mierlo MP,
House of Commons,
London,
SW1A 0AA

Dear Freddie,

I am writing in response to your point of order concerning comments I made in the House on the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) funding.

My statement that "funding for STFC has not been cut" was accurate. STFC's core budget is being maintained over the Spending Review period, from £835 million in 2025/26 to £842 million in 2029/30. While some individual programmes and activities within STFC are being reduced or reprioritised, this reflects decisions about how funding is allocated within a budget that is being maintained, rather than a reduction in STFC's funding settlement.

It is important to distinguish between STFC's core budget and specific time-limited projects. Funding for time-limited projects is provided for a defined purpose and duration and does not form part of STFC's ongoing core budget. Such funding is not intended to continue indefinitely once those projects conclude. For example, major capital investments that are funded to deliver a specific outcome such as the Diamond-II upgrade, which is delivering a 70-fold improvement in the brightness of Diamond's light beams. These one-off allocations do not become part of STFC's recurring budget. As a result, the completion or expiry of time-limited funding should not be interpreted as a reduction in STFC's core funding settlement.

STFC is facing increased cost pressures arising from factors including inflation, higher energy costs, foreign exchange movements and the costs associated with an expanded portfolio of activity. Consequently, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has taken decisions to prioritise resources within STFC's existing budget to ensure the organisation remains financially sustainable while continuing to support world-class science and research infrastructure.

I recognise the importance of communicating these issues clearly, particularly for researchers, institutions and communities affected by individual funding decisions. That is why I am pleased that UKRI has published an explainer of the STFC prioritisation outcomes on their website: [STFC prioritisation outcomes – UKRI](#). The Government and UKRI will continue to engage with stakeholders to explain both the overall funding position and the rationale for specific prioritisation decisions.

I will place a copy of this letter in the libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Murray', with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end.

The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister of State for Digital, Government and Data