

C04/13471/06832/mk

Sir David King ScD FRS
Chief Scientific Adviser
HM Government and Head of the Office of Science and Technology
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET



2 March 2005

Dear David

CSA'S PROGRAMME: ROLLING REVIEWS OF DEPARTMENTAL SCIENCE

I am writing in response to your report reviewing science within DCMS. I would like to congratulate you and your team on producing a wide ranging account of scientific activity relevant to the responsibilities of this Department, which will form useful background to our future work in this area.

We are strongly committed to developing the evidence base of the Department. We have increased the number of professional economics, statistics and research staff. Recent measures include the creation of a new Strategy Division. This brings together our analysts with those involved in advising on strategy and delivery. The work of the new Division includes strategic and longer term analysis. They are working productively with your staff on futures and horizon scanning and continuing to cooperate with our sponsored bodies, for example on measuring the impact of our policies.

Against that background, I welcome your recommendation to appoint a part-time, externally-based Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA). The right person could support DCMS by contributing to our evidence base and strengthening links with the broader scientific and research community. The appointee could advise DCMS on aspects of our research programme, and be called on as a source of expertise and information on the application of science and social science to the Department, for example in relation to our work on sustainable development. Given our priorities and main areas of interest, it is appropriate that the person appointed would be a social scientist.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sue Street'.

SUE STREET