



The
British
Psychological
Society

48 Princess Road East, Leicester LE1 7DR
Tel: 0116 254 9568 Fax: 0116 247 0787
E-mail: mail@bps.org.uk www.bps.org.uk

Direct line: 0116 252 9510
E-mail:
lisa.morrisoncoulthard@bps.org.uk

Consultation Responses
Cooksey Review Secretariat
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
LONDON SW1A 2HQ

28th July 2006

Dear Sir David

Re: Cooksey Review of UK Health Research

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Joint Committee for Psychology in Higher Education. The Joint Committee is the umbrella group for the three main bodies that represent British Psychology - the British Psychological Society (with over 40,000 members), the Experimental Psychology Society (with 600 members) and the Association of Heads of Psychology Departments representing (over 100 Departments).

Enclosed are the separate responses prepared by the British Psychological Society and the Experimental Psychology Society to this consultation. The response from the British Psychological Society has also been endorsed by the Association of Heads of Psychology Departments.

We wish to draw your attention to the following common themes of both submissions:

- We cautiously welcome the proposal to integrate health research funding in a one single budget.
- MRC has an excellent record of supporting very high quality world class research. It is well placed to develop future research strategy for basic research.
- NHS R&D supports high quality research that informs practice in the NHS, via NICE, and more widely on the delivery of effective and efficient healthcare.
- Both types of research are necessary and should be supported.
- We are concerned that such integration does not result in the loss of the complementary strengths of the MRC and NHS R&D agendas – so that one dominates the other – to the detriment of a more balanced approach.
- Behavioural science and neuroscience and core disciplines within health research that have not been highlighted by the review. This is disappointing given that the most critical output measures for applied health research in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation are behavioural.
- The funding of basic research in behavioural science and neuroscience is essential to avoid a weakening of the UK health science base and a drain of the best researchers from the UK. If basic research is not conducted, there will be nothing to translate and nothing to apply.

- We believe that there should be separate streams of funding for basic, translational and applied research.
- If a decision is taken to integrate the funds of the NHS R&D and the MRC, it will be extremely important that both basic and applied research are appropriately supported. Each funding stream should continue to have a separate distinct focus. However, there should be better connected joint strategic planning regarding priorities and balance in funding allocations to basic and applied research.

We hope that these comments are of use to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me c/o Dr Lisa Morrison Coulthard, Scientific Officer (e-mail: lisa.morrisoncoulthard@bps.org.uk) if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic Abrams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dominic Abrams (Professor)

Chair, Joint Committee for Psychology in Higher Education