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From the IMA Honorary Secretary

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From the LMS Education Secretary

Professor Christopher Budd
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Dear Sir/Madam

DCSF/BIS Consultation: Science and Learning

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the perceptions of science and mathematics in education as part of the DCSF and BIS's joint consultation on *Science and Learning*.

Attention to this topic is very welcome, but we are concerned that some of the references to science and mathematics have become a little confused in the consultation document itself. Some questions distinguish between science and mathematics, whereas others seem to exclude mathematics, either deliberately or by assumed incorporation within the generic word "science".

The Science and Learning Expert Group should be aware that in secondary education the phrase 'science education' does not encompass mathematics education. Science lessons and mathematics lessons are distinct, involving separate departments and separate teachers, despite the strong connections between the subjects. There is a risk, therefore, that schools responding to this document will read the title and pass the task of responding to the science department, leaving little to no scope for input from a mathematics point of view.

It is also important that the Group understands the relationship between these subjects. Mathematics underpins all other sciences and is an essential part of studying them. The logical approach mathematics generates—far beyond that of sheer numeracy—is highly valued across other STEM subjects and the workplace as a whole.

Yours faithfully

Professor Chris Budd
Education Secretary
London Mathematical Society

Professor Nigel Steele
Honorary Secretary
The Institute of Mathematics and its
Applications