
Review of UK physics

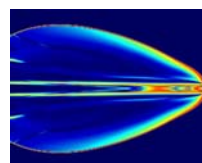
Foundation for Science and Technology
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www.iop.org

Focus

- Reassurance on future decision making
- Continuity of funding for physics research
- Improving the take-up of physics in post 16 education



Reassurance on future decision making

- Broadening the membership of STFC's Council ✓
- Scientific group to advise on Comprehensive Spending Review allocations ✓
- Separation of STFC funding streams for different strategic objectives X

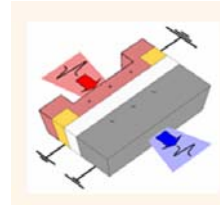
Continuity of funding

- Wholeheartedly endorse Recommendation 1, but
- What is the right balance between fundamental and applied research?
- What are the right international comparisons?



Fundamental research

- Driven by intellectual curiosity – to improve our understanding of the world we live in
- Has delivered unforeseeable benefits to our society and economy:
 - Quantum information technology
 - Forecasting climate change
 - Development of superconductors
 - Liquid crystal display technology
 - The world wide web
- Take the long view on investment in fundamental research



International comparisons

- Better metrics required
- IOP is commissioning a study – would welcome partners' support
- Just one example – Japanese investment in new and planned facilities and programmes



Improving the take-up of physics

- Crucial to long-term health of physics
- Specialist teachers
- Improving diversity



Conclusion

- Strongly support the recommendations of the review
- Hope RCUK will carry them forward
- IOP will do all it can to support their implementation



The Institute of Physics

- promoting physics
- supporting physicists

