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The Lord Krebs Kt, MA, DPhil, FRS, FMedSci, Hon DSc
Chairman of the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee
House of Lords Committee Office
London SW1A 0PW

Dear Lord Krebs,

Your letter of 7th December: Request for inquiry topic recommendations

Thank you for your invitation to the Council for the Mathematical Sciences to submit suggestions for inquiry topics for the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee to consider in the coming year.

An appropriate and timely topic would be the inadequate supply of talented and imaginative individuals with a high degree of mathematical training and their engagement with economic opportunities which are vital to the UK economy. There is considerable demand for such individuals across the economic spectrum, which the supply side simply cannot meet, a disparity which is set to grow and which needs to be addressed.

As evidence I cite our earlier submission to your inquiry into the Spending Review of 2010; the article "Mathematics in the new Elizabethan age" published in Science in Parliament in Autumn 2012; and the November 2012 Deloitte Report on the Economic Benefits of Mathematical Sciences Research. Links to all three are provided at <http://www.statslab.cam.ac.uk/~frank/HoLrefs.html>

Mathematical Sciences underpin our 21st century technology, economy and society, and this is recognised in the employment market, where our graduates and postgraduates are in extremely high demand. It is *not* recognised by RCUK in their Strategic Framework for Capital Investment released on 9 November 2012. This document cited extensively many of the mathematical science occupations identified in the Deloitte Report, and yet did not even contain the word "mathematics" (the closest it comes is "algorithm" and "simulation", each used twice).

The House of Lords Science and Technology Committee would be a knowledgeable and informed body to explore why the UK does not seem to have an effective mechanism or policy framework to develop appropriate talent on an appropriate scale, or to match it to the potential demand emanating from strategic challenges faced by the UK.

Yours sincerely,

