Andrew Miller MP  
Chair, House of Commons Science and Technology Select  
Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA  

Lord Krebs FRS  
Chair, House of Lords Science and Technology Select  
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House of Lords  
London SW1A 0PW  

3 December 2010

Dear Andrew and Lord Krebs,

Thank you for your letter of 10th November. I have also seen a copy of Lord Krebs’ letter to the Prime Minister.

The Department has indeed reviewed its senior structure and organisation. This is to ensure that we take full advantage of the synergies from the creation of BIS. After consulting a range of people, the review concluded that we should create four Director General roles with responsibility for policy instead of the existing six. It further recommended that there were real benefits to be gained from bringing together policy on universities, innovation, science and research.

I note your views on the importance of having a senior scientist in the role. As the Prime Minister has observed, however, it is important that the appointment process for roles such as this are independent from external lobbying. The selection process for this new role was, like other positions at this level, undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Commissioner’s rules and you will know by now that Professor Adrian Smith FRS was selected. I hope you will agree that Professor Smith has the skills and experience to be very effective in all aspects of this role.


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