



Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA
Tel 020 7219 7126
<http://www.parliament.uk/science>

From Stephen Metcalfe MP, Chair

Rt Hon Nick Gibb
Minister of State for School Standards
Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BT

19 April 2017

Big Bang Fair

The Committee took oral evidence at this year's Big Bang Fair as part of our Closing the STEM skills gap inquiry. We were delighted to see such a celebration of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for children and young people. It was uplifting and inspiring to see their enthusiasm and to see such an initiative stimulating interest in STEM.

There were 90,000 visitors to this year's event in March. However, we were disappointed to learn that it received no government funding or Ministerial support this time. In past events, the Prime Minister's attendance sent a positive and strong message of the Government's commitment and investment in STEM. The businesses and organisations who support the Fair by putting in their time and money would, like us, want to see more support from Government.

Next year marks the 10th anniversary of the Big Bang Fair, the Year of Engineering. The event will run from 14th to 17th March 2018. We would welcome Government's financial support and Ministers' presence at the event, collaborating with industry, and the many organisations involved to make it even more accessible to schools and families.

I am also copying my reply to Jo Johnson MP, Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation.

Stephen Metcalfe MP
Chair