

# ECR Response

ECR Letter  
(>1200 signatures)

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Social Media

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Press

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Science, Innovation, and  
Technologies committee (SITC)

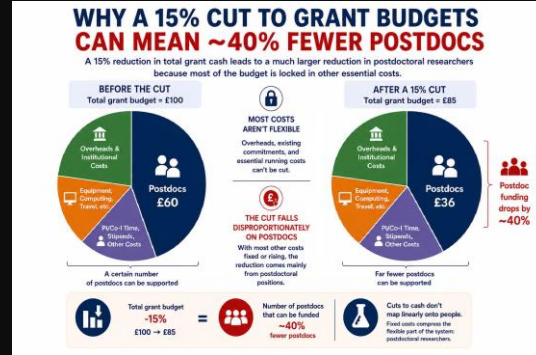
Prof. Sir Ian Chapman,  
UK Research and Innovation,  
Polaris House,  
North Star Avenue,  
Swindon,  
SN2 1FL

3rd February 2026

**Subject: Safeguarding Fundamental Science as a Strategic Asset for UK Growth**

Dear Prof. Sir Ian Chapman,

We write as early-career researchers within the Particle Physics, Astronomy and Nuclear physics (PPAN) community from across the United Kingdom (UK), in response to recent announcements on UK Research and Innovation's investment approach and the emerging funding architecture for the 2026-2030 period. UKRI has set out a transition toward a more focused, outcomes-driven funding model, alongside statements that overall investment is rising and that curiosity-driven research remains protected.



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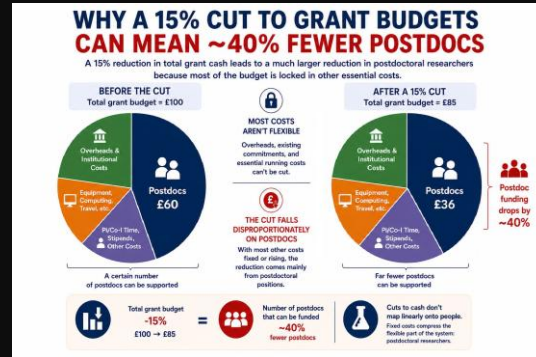
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Postdocs Funding: 30%-60% cuts → 15% cuts



“protecting PPAN postdocs”

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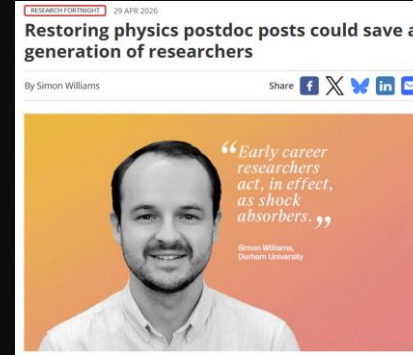
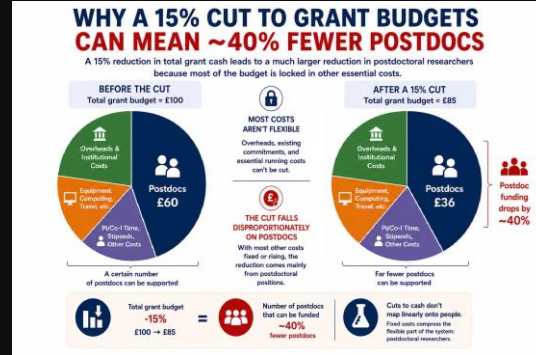
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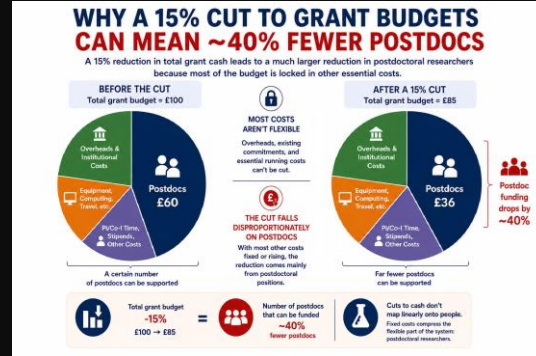
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## In the pipelines:

- Clarification to the SITC: 15% cut is not protection
- Poll for ECRs: Level of reassurance?
- Open letter from MSc/Undergrad students

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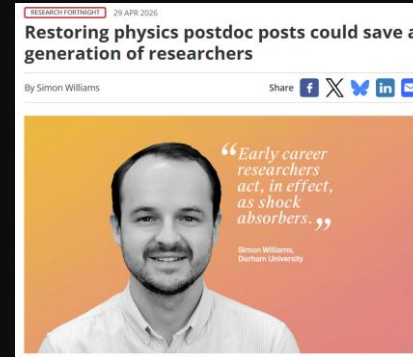
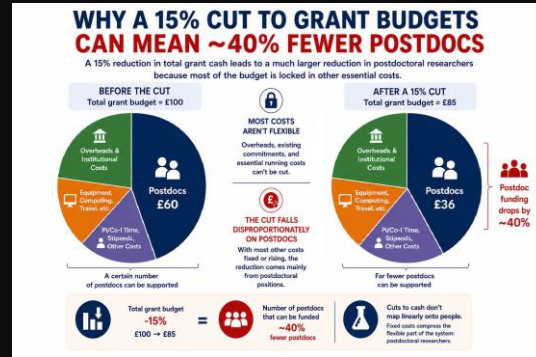
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## Get Involved:

- If you didn't, contact your local MP: <https://lheurrier.github.io/MPletter.html>
- Be vocal on social media, now more than ever
- An initiative: Reach out! We can help!