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21 June 2011

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Dear Frank

**EPSRC SUPPORT FOR MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS**

Thank you for your letter sent by the CMS on behalf of all the Mathematical Sciences Learned & Professional Societies and dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2011, outlining the Council for the Mathematical Sciences' concerns regarding funding for mathematical physics.

The EPSRC funds research in the mathematical sciences leading to the development of new mathematical knowledge and techniques. In the area of mathematical physics it therefore supports projects that have a strong mathematical focus aimed at developing new knowledge, albeit that they are inspired by or relevant to theoretical physics. In contrast, the STFC funds theoretical physics which may encompass the theoretical side of mathematical physics. In making remit decisions, EPSRC takes a view from STFC and seeks such expert advice as it considers necessary and appropriate.

We have recently agreed a statement with STFC which we hope makes our different responsibilities clear, which will be published on our website shortly. This is attached for your information and for any comments CMS may have.

The high quality of mathematical physics research in the UK is of course well recognised. EPSRC will continue to ensure that excellent proposals that are within remit are supported as far as the funding allows, whilst also ensuring that the funding EPSRC is able to make available to the mathematical sciences research supports a breadth of capability. Going forward our funding decisions will take into account both excellence, national importance and existing research capacity. I fully anticipate that we will continue to support research in mathematical physics that contributes to these ambitions.

Yours sincerely



Philippa Hemmings

Lead, Mathematical Sciences

cc Dr Lesley Thompson, Director of Research Base, EPSRC