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# Insult to injury

**DIUS must be struggling to cope with an avalanche of letters demanding answers to the STFC funding fiasco. What else could explain the rather slipshod response received by a group of 559 young physicists? (See link to PDF below). The missing words, duplicated paragraphs and generally wishy-washy tone have stirred the ire of the scientists on the Facebook group that organised the letter, who say that it shows how little the government cares about the views of scientists.**

But it's not just the lack of proofreading that they find offensive: "It is insulting for them to have churned out some government statistics babble and not realise that they are replying to people who are trained to recover relevant information from incomprehensible documents," says one. A good point, but one made, we fear, by someone with little experience reading government documents.

### Tangled

Friday afternoons can be a chore for everyone, but sometimes it really becomes obvious who is in need of a holiday. An unnamed spokeswoman from an unnamed organisation supplied Research Fortnight with the following statement at 4.22pm last Friday: "[Our mission is] to facilitate more efficient translation of health research into health research and economic benefits in the UK through better co-ordination of health research." Well, at least it's focused on research. Still, we recommend a trip to a sunny island.

### Pay attention!

Just checking now. You have noticed, haven't you, that the creation of DIUS is not just a bit of organisational tidying up? For example, you have obviously noticed that it has bankrupted the STFC, threatens the future existence of HEFCE and is swinging funding into services innovation rather than scientific research? In other words, you have noticed that the DIUS agenda is a fundamental change of direction?

We only mention this because you may NOT have noticed that there is currently a consultation on future strategy at DIUS. Don't blame Ian Pearson for that. He gave us an interview on the subject and we plastered it all over our front page. But nonetheless, there has been very little publicity, and now you only have eight days left to reply. To do so, click on the link to the online consultation below where, no doubt to aid considered and profound debate, DIUS forces you to log in before you can see the questions and then limits responses to 1,000 characters per question. For the questions themselves, the helpful IT guys have created a document - click on the link below to download it.

**Other sites** Pearson reply (PDF). DIUS consultation. DIUS questions (DOC).

Simple search

for

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