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Dr Andrew Garrett, RSS President responds to the Autumn Budget

“It is welcome news that headline R&D commitments continue as planned at £20 billion, or so, for 2025. This reflects the new Chancellor’s recognition that wise R&D spend enables economic growth and leads to well paid jobs in the UK. A recent report [1] by the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences estimates that the mathematical sciences contributed £495 billion to the UK economy in 2023 with productivity in associated jobs being 58% higher than the average and with mean average salaries 24% higher than average.

“It is also welcome news that the Chancellor has aspirations for the UK to become a clean energy superpower with targeted regional investment across the UK in carbon capture and green hydrogen. It is important that the UK shows leadership on climate change – in terms of the research and associated investment in solutions to reduce our carbon emissions.

“The previously announced National Data Library gets a small mention in the budget but little detail is provided around access to public data assets. The RSS keenly awaits more detail around the Government’s plans for investment in the UK’s data infrastructure including details around enhanced data sharing to support research and business.”

1 New analysis shows that mathematical sciences supercharges UK economic growth – Academy for the Mathematical Sciences: <https://www.acadmathsci.org.uk/2024/10/22/new-analysis-shows-that-mathematical-sciences-supercharges-uk-economic-growth/>

Notes to editors:

- The [Royal Statistical Society \(RSS\)](#), founded in 1834 is a charity which promotes statistics, data and evidence for the public good. We are one of the world’s leading learned societies and the only UK professional body for all statisticians and other data professionals – wherever they may live.