

THE NEW FUNDING FOR UK MATHS

IVAN FESENKO

In August 2019 I was asked by D. Cummings, at that time the senior special advisor to the Prime Minister, to ‘assemble a group of mathematicians ... coordinate the effort ... produce the best possible roadmap for funding mathematics’ in the UK. A draft of the proposal was considered at a meeting of a group of mathematicians with government officials in August 2019. Two further meetings at No10 discussed aspects of new additional funding and problems affecting effective support of mathematics research and agreed the executive summaries. For some relevant communication see the next two pages. The final version of the proposal is available [here](#). New additional funding for UK mathematics was announced by the UK government in January 2020 on [this page](#).

An [article](#) by M. Wakayama and I. Fesenko in the EMS Magazine contains some details.

The main distributor of the new funding is the EPSRC. It will very much depend on them how this new valuable support for UK mathematics is used.

Meetings at No 10 to discuss maths funding

From: **Clare Brannagan** <CBrannagan@no10.gov.uk>
Date: Thu, 8 Aug 2019 at 18:36
Subject: RE: Research Funding Meeting - Friday 9th August
To: Ivan Fesenko <Ivan.Fesenko@nottingham.ac.uk>

Hello Ivan,

Thank you for sending this over, it's much appreciated.

I've passed this onto Dominic and he would like to know if you'd be ok for us to share your paper amongst the rest of attendees in advance to our meeting tomorrow?

I'm happy to let you know the full cast-list before sending? I'm still waiting on one or two to confirm their attendance.

Many thanks
Clare

Clare Brannagan
Diary Manager for Dominic Cummings, Liam Booth-Smith & Ben Gascoigne | Prime Minister's Office | 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA | 0207 930 4433

From: Ivan Fesenko [mailto:Ivan.Fesenko@nottingham.ac.uk]
Sent: 07 August 2019 19:24
To: Clare Brannagan <CBrannagan@no10.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Research Funding Meeting - Friday 9th August

Dear Clare,

please find attached my proposal 'Roadmap for modern funding of UK mathematics' for the meeting on Friday.

Best wishes,

Ivan

Preparation for the 1st meeting

From: **Clare Brannagan** <CBrannagan@no10.gov.uk>
Date: Tue, 6 Aug 2019 at 19:34
Subject: Research Funding Meeting - Friday 9th August
To: ivan.fesenko@nottingham.ac.uk <ivan.fesenko@nottingham.ac.uk>

Dear Ivan,

I am emailing on behalf of the PMs Senior Advisor, Dominic Cummings.

Dominic would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss Research Funding.

Please could you let me know if you are available this Friday from 12:00-14:00 for a 45minute meeting at No10 Downing Street.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks
Clare

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The 1st meeting

Meetings at No 10 to discuss maths funding

From: **Clare Brannagan** <CBrannagan@no10.gov.uk>
Date: Mon, 19 Aug 2019 at 22:37
Subject: RE: 2nd Research Funding Meeting this week
To: Ivan Fesenko <ivan.b.fesenko@gmail.com>

Hi Ivan,

Thank you for getting in touch.

Would Wednesday 21st at 1100-1200 work at all?

Unfortunately, I am unable to send invites externally but I'm happy to email each attendee to confirm the time – just let me know if the above time is suitable.

Happy to look at some times on Thursday or Friday if needed.

Many thanks
Clare

Clare Brannagan
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The 2nd meeting

Emily Beynon <EBeynon@no10.gov.uk>
to me, Dominic, Mark ▾

📧 Sat, 25 Jan 2020, 04:08 ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear Ivan,

We're looking forward to welcoming you to No10 on Monday to discuss the future of maths in the UK. I have attached here the agenda for the discussion, as well as the outline of the package that we plan to announce.

I know you spoke to my colleague Neeraj last week about the maths package. The aim is that this overcomes constraints in the maths system raised with us during those discussions, by you and other researchers, allowing the UK's brilliant mathematics community to go from strength to strength.

Before we make the announcement on Monday, I would be grateful for any final thoughts you might have on the attached package. We are keen to make sure that it addresses decisively the key asks and issues that you raised. We trust that it does – we think we listened! However, we would v much value your thoughts, and to understand any concerns you might have about its implementation.

It is worth noting that the funding outlined here will be accompanied by a significant review of how we best cut the bureaucracy shackling research, with work starting in earnest asap.

If you felt appropriate, we would welcome a supportive quote or tweet from you on the day of the announcement.

I can be contacted on the number below, and would be very happy to talk through any thoughts you might have.

This announcement is of course sensitive, and we would like to ensure that it does not leak ahead of Monday, so I would be grateful for your discretion on it.

Emily.
Emily Beynon | Private Secretary to the Prime Minister | 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA | ebeynon@no10.gov.uk | 020 7930 4433

The 3rd meeting