

**The Rt Hon David Willetts MP**  
Minister for Universities and Science

Professor Gavin P Reynolds  
Professor I Nicol Ferrier  
Professor Barbara J Sahakian  
British Association for Psychopharmacology  
36 Cambridge Place  
Hills Road  
Cambridge  
CB2 1NS

Our ref: 217757  
Your Ref:

27 September 2010

*Dear Professor Reynolds,*

Thank you for your joint letter of 17 August, about recent decisions by pharmaceutical companies to close UK research centres and how discontinuing research into new treatments for psychiatric and neurological diseases will restrict future progress in this important area.

Research and Development (R&D) is a key driver of economic growth and the pharmaceutical sector has for many years been the most R&D intensive sector in the UK. However, we are very much aware of the sector-wide restructuring due to a number of factors not the least of which is the looming patent cliff.

The Government shares BAP's disappointment that parts of the industry will withdraw UK activity in this important field. However, the Government must also recognise that these were commercial decisions for individual companies to take as part of their global restructuring strategies. It would not be appropriate for the Government to attempt to intervene or influence those decisions.

*Yours sincerely*

*David Willetts*

**THE RT HON DAVID WILLETTS MP**

1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET  
[www.bis.gov.uk](http://www.bis.gov.uk)