

Letter from 20 academic participants in the
EPSRC Pure Mathematics Workshop (Bath, 19-20 January 2012)
to Philippa Hemmings (Mathematics Theme Leader)

2nd February 2012

Dear Philippa,

We understand that it is part of the job of the Mathematics Theme to implement the agenda set by EPSRC Council. So we participated in the Pure Mathematics Workshop in Bath last month with the hope of offering advice from the viewpoint of researchers in the subject.

Although we had no idea of what was in store, having seen neither a programme of aims and objectives, nor a list of who had been invited or why, we joined in what we hoped would be a pragmatic attempt to address the concerns of the Pure Mathematics community in respect of the EPSRC-wide agenda, particularly with regard to *Shaping Capability* and the role of *National Importance* in the peer review process.

In the end the event was a disappointment and you and your colleagues may

concentrating on should leave the subject to develop naturally, thereby in particular maximizing its contributions to society.

If such engagement is to include workshops such as that in Bath, these should have a clear purpose, which is stated in adv