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the evidence on which the EPSRC is making its decisions. Finally, we do not know the context in which our comments will be taken, or the process by which your conclusions will lead to action. The mechanism by which 'grow', 'maintain' or 'reduce' decisions are implemented and the timescale on which it happens will fundamentally influence whether or not the intended purpose is achieved. In this context of ignorance, we felt the most helpful way to formulate our input is to suggest a series of questions that need to be answered, in the full knowledge that you will already have answered some of them.

Clearly it would help to know what information you have gathered so far and how you have analysed that information. In view of the international nature of the mathematical research effort, it is essential to ask what international comparisons you have used: for example have you considered the levels of funding of the components of the EPSRC portfolio in the US or in other competitor nations? How are you taking account of t

