

**Open Academic Publishing**  
*A note by the Union President - Paul Beaumont*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2012/jul/15/free-access-british-scientific-research>

**Background**

1. Academic Journals have a horrendous reputation for increasing prices and profiteering from Academics' work.
2. Imperial College Library has been a vocal advocate of legislation to reduce these prices – reducing the strain on their own budget and the cost to individual subscribers (including the academics who publish their work in the Journals: they themselves have to pay to see their own work!)
3. The Government (in the Finch report) has proposed paying up to £50m a year to pay publishers (in lieu of Universities, etc, subscribing), which will be taken out of the research grants from the Government payable to Universities.

**Beliefs**

1. The concept of making academic work open to all is commendable.
2. The practice of cutting £50m from research funding to pay private companies is not commendable.

**Resolves**

1. To lobby the Government to either (in order of preference):
  - a. Change the proposal so that private companies do not profit from Government money.
  - b. Find £50m from another source, other than research funding.