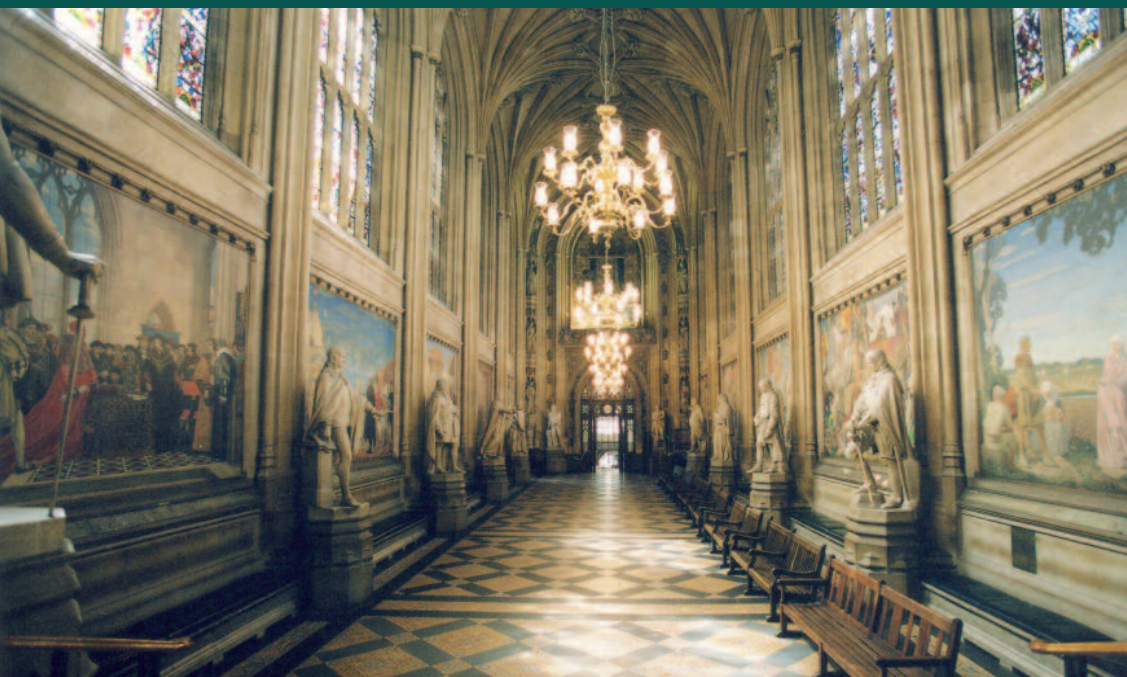




The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee



**Annual
Report**

2010

THE PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE
(An Associate Parliamentary Group including Members of the
Associate Parliamentary Engineering Group)

Established 1939

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee is a primary focus for scientific and technological issues providing a long-term liaison between Parliamentarians and scientific and engineering bodies, science-based industry, academia and organisations representing those significantly affected by science. The main aim is to focus on those issues where science and politics meet, informing Members of both Houses of Parliament by indicating the relevance of scientific and technological developments to matters of public interest and to the development of policy.

The Committee meets once a month when Parliament is sitting to debate a scientific or engineering topic and its relationship with political issues. These debates take place in the Palace of Westminster, starting at 5.30pm and are usually followed by informal receptions. Attendance is typically 60–80. Most debates are followed by a working dinner where the informal atmosphere facilitates open and wide-ranging discussion between interested Parliamentarians and those most closely concerned with the evening's topic.

The Committee arranges visits to industrial and scientific establishments. Typically a party of a dozen or so will include two or three Parliamentarians who will thereby have an in-depth introduction to some aspect of the real world of science and technology.

Cover photograph

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Foreword by the President

The Rt Hon the Lord Jenkin of Roding

The President's Foreword to the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee Annual Report is an opportunity to reflect upon current issues and future opportunities.

A high point of the year for me was the presentation to an International Meeting on "Science and Citizenship", December 2010, hosted by the British Council and located at the Wellcome Collection Conference Centre. This was intended to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Report of an Inquiry I chaired in 2000 on behalf of the UK's House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology "Science and Society". To my astonishment it has turned out to be one of the most influential such reports ever published in the UK. Ten years later, its impact is still felt, not only within the UK but across the world.

Perhaps the most challenging question pervading the entire meeting was "What is meant by public engagement?" I had indicated that not attempting to define engagement was a "shortcoming" of the 2000 House of Lords report. We set out a number of different mechanisms which might be in use but scientists of all disciplines have found this question of public engagement difficult to grasp. It is clearer what public engagement rejects, namely the notion that science communication simply informs and educates in a 'one-way' or 'deficit' model, for example, through presentations to audiences, or distributing facts and information. By the time the Report was published, a new model was coming into fashion: two-way 'dialogue', in which scientists (and other players) also listened to, and even acted upon, the public's views. The Report strongly encouraged this new approach as a way to assure people their view counted, ultimately helping to increase trust in science. Every major scientific body in the UK today has its 'Science and Society' activity.

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee has survived its rebirth following the election last year in a dynamic and business-like manner with a diverse and exciting meetings programme, summarised in this report. Financially we broke even when allowing for the additional and unplanned costs of the additional staff required to cover for long-term sick leave.

A comprehensive mail-out programme was undertaken with help from Dr David Dent in which the large number of new MPs were contacted directly and also indirectly through member organisations with a view to encouraging them to come to Discussion Meetings. This worked fairly well, but the Committee's model for All Party Groups (APG) has been so widely imitated that most Parliamentarians now belong to at least one APG, so the competition for their attention is fierce.

Unlike Government, where Departmental boundaries necessarily exist for operational reasons, the Committee is free of any such restriction and can therefore bring fresh insight to the table arising from a more inclusive and integrated approach. The intention, nevertheless, is that ultimately this will help those with the responsibility for taking the vital decisions to reach wise solutions, especially on complex issues that span a wide spectrum. However, it is important to recognise that there are probably still as many unnecessary and artificial barriers between protagonists of different branches of science and engineering as there are between them and the public generally. We must give more attention to this.

The topics we have discussed recently range from "Medical Physics: from Blue-Skies to Bedside – turning today's cutting-edge science into tomorrow's healthcare technology"; "Can the Economy survive without a National Measurement System?"; the National Science and Engineering Week Seminar on "Space – How can we use it?"; "Influenza: What are the likely threats of Flu for the UK and how can Science help ameliorate the consequences?" and "Strategic Metals – How can geoscience help increase resources and how will a supply shortage impact on the UK?".

Future meetings announced include: "Nuclear Energy: What are the Risks? What are the Advantages?" and "What does the future hold for Pharma in the UK?" Plans for further meetings on "Scientific Freedom, the Elixir of Civilisation" and "The Public Understanding of Risk" are well advanced.

On a more mundane note, the changes in the location of the dining room and reception space for members attending meetings, especially the more popular ones, is a problem that remains to be resolved. I must add how grateful I am to John Slater of the Comino Foundation for voluntarily assuming responsibility for managing the Committee's office during staff long-term sickness.

With all the help and support we enjoy, the P&SC is very much alive and flourishing!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Tenhin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Office-holders 2010

President

The Rt Hon the Lord Jenkin of Roding

Past Presidents

The Rt Hon Lord Waldegrave of North Hill

The Earl of Selborne KBE FRS

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT FRS

The Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior

Vice-Presidents

Dr David Dent

Professor Peter Saunders

Mr Robert Freer

Professor Julia King CBE FREng

Dr Douglas Naysmith

Dr Desmond Turner

Mr Robert Key

Professor Alan Malcolm

Mr Paul Ridout

Hon Treasurer

Lord Willis of Knaresborough

Hon Secretary

Mr Stephen Mosley MP

Chairman

Mr Andrew Miller MP

Deputy Chairman

Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP

Advisory Panel

Vice-Chairman

Dr Robert Kirby-Harris

Special Advisers

Mr Philip Greenish CBE

Dr Stephen Benn

Secretariat

Eur Ing Professor Peter Simpson

Mrs Annabel Lloyd

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Council

At the end of 2010 the following were members of the Council:

Dr Stephen Benn

Professor John Bleby

Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP

Dr David Brown

Mr Stephen Cox

Dr David Dent

Mr Robert Freer

Mr Philip Greenish

The Baroness Hilton of
Eggardon

Dr T D Inch

Mr Paul Jackson

The Rt Hon Lord Jenkin
of Roding

Professor H Peter Jost

Mr Robert Key

Professor Julia King

Sir John Kingman

Dr Robert Kirby-Harris

Professor Alan Malcolm

Mr Andrew Miller MP

The Rt Hon Lord Morris of
Manchester

Mr Stephen Mosley MP

Dr Douglas Naysmith

The Lord Oxburgh

Professor Jane Plant

Mr Paul Ridout

Professor Peter Saunders

The Earl of Selborne

Mr R G Sell

Mr John Slater

The Lord Soulsby of
Swaffham Prior

Mr Ian Taylor

Dr Desmond Turner

Lord Willis of

Knaresborough

Dr Richard Worswick

Membership 2010

House of Lords

Baroness Andrews	Lord Jopling	Lord Sheldon
Lord Armstrong	Lord Judd	Viscount Simon
Lord Ashley of Stoke	Lord Krebs	Viscount Slim
Lord Boswell of Aynho	Lord Lewis of Newnham	Lord Soulsby of Swaffham
Lord Bragg	Baroness Lockwood	Prior
Lord Brett	Lord Mackenzie of Culkein	Lord Stevenson of
Lord Broers	Lord McColl of Dulwich	Coddenham
Lord Brooke of Sutton	The Countess of Mar	Lord Stoddart of Swindon
Mandeville	Lord Marshall of	Lord Stone of Blackheath
Lord Chorley	Knightsbridge	Lord Taverne
Lord Clement-Jones	Lord Mason	Lord Thomas of Macclesfield
Lord Craig of Radley	Lord Methuen	Baroness Thornton
Lord Davies of Coity	Lord May of Oxford	Lord Tombs of Brailes
Baroness Dean	Viscount Montgomery of	Lord Trefgarne
Lord Deben	Alamein	Lord Turnberg
Baroness Gibson of Market	Baroness Nicholson of	Baroness Turner of Camden
Rasen	Winterbourne	Lord Vinson of Roddam
Baroness Gould of	Baroness Northover	Dene
Potternewton	Lord Oxburgh	Lord Wade of Chorlton
Baroness Greenfield	Lord Patel of Dunkeld	Lord Waldegrave of North
Baroness Hamwee	Lord Patten	Hill
Lord Haskel	Baroness Perry of Southwark	Baroness Walmsley
Lord Hayhoe	Baroness Platt of Writtle	Lord Walton of Detchant
Baroness Hilton of Eggardon	Lord Rea	Baroness Warwick of
Lord Howe of Aberavon	Lord Rees of Ludlow	Undercliffe
Lord Howie of Troon	Lord Roberts of Conwy	Lord Willis of
Lord Hoyle	Lord Rooker	Knaresborough
Lord Hunt of Chesterton	Lord Sainsbury of Turville	Lord Winston
Lord Hunt of Wirral	The Earl of Selborne	
Lord Jenkin of Roding	Baroness Sharp of Guildford	

House of Commons

Adam Afriyie	George Freeman	David Mowat
Ian Austin	Mark Garnier	Brooks Newmark
Bob Blackman	Mrs Helen Goodman	Chi Onwurah
Tom Blenkinsop	Robert Goodwill	Richard Ottaway
Sir Peter Bottomley	Stephen Hammond	James Paice
Andrew Bridgen	Charles Hendry	Alok Sharma
Dr Terese Coffey	Dr Julian Huppert	Alec Shelbrooke
Oliver Colville	Hon Bernard Jenkin	Graham Stringer
Michael Connarty	David Jones	Ian Swales
Nick Dakin	Andrew Love	Ed Vaizey
David Davies	Ms Ann McKeichin	Ben Wallace
The Rt Hon David Davis	Esther McVey	Tom Watson
Nigel Evans	Andrew Miller	Stephen Williams
Robert Ffello	Austin Mitchell	Dr Sarah Wollaston
Paul Flynn	Stephen Mosley	

Members of the European Parliament

Stuart Agnew	Andrew Duff	Malcolm Harbour
Richard Ashworth	James Elles	Timothy Kirkhope
Rt Hon Sir Robert Atkins	Ashley Fox	Ms Jean Lambert
Giles Chichester	Julie Girling	Marina Yannakoudakis

Hereditary Peers

Lord Birdwood	Lord Ironside	Lord Renwick
Earl of Cranbrook	Lord Kirkwood	Earl of Shannon
Lord Hacking	Lord Monkswell	Viscount Weir

Honorary Members

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
The President, The Royal Society
The President, The Royal Academy of Engineering

Members appointed by virtue of their office

Government Chief Scientific Adviser (Professor Sir John Beddington FRS)
Director-General Science and Research (Professor Sir Adrian Smith FRS)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence (Professor Mark Welland FRS FREng)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Energy and Climate Change (Professor David Mackay)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Professor Robert T Watson)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Health (Professor Dame Sally Davies)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Home Office (Professor Bernard Silverman)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Transport (Professor Brian Collins)

Life Members

Professor John Bleby	Professor H Peter Jost	Sir David Price
Arthur Butler	Robert Key	Reg Sell
Tam Dalyell	Lord Morris of Manchester	Lord Spicer of Crophorne
Dr Brian Iddon	Dr Douglas Naysmith	Ian Taylor
Dr Tom Inch	Sir John Osborn	Dr Desmond Turner
Dr Ian Gibson	Richard Page	Dr Peter Warren

Individual Members

Sir Frederick Crawford	Robert Freer	Dr Keith Winters
Dr John Dudeney	Sir John Kingman	Dr Richard Worswick
Professor Michael Elves	Professor Robert Pickard	
Dr Geoffrey Findlay	Professor Jane Plant	

Scientific and Technical Organisations

Appointed representatives of Scientific and Technical Organisations in 2010

Academy of Medical Sciences AIRTO Association for Clinical Biochemistry	Dr Helen Munn Professor Richard Brook OBE FREng Dr Graham Groom, Joe O'Meara, Professor Donald W Moss Annette Smith The Chairman, Dr Chris Chatfield Michael Cocks, Tony Harding
Association for Science Education Association of Consulting Scientists Association of Management & Professional Staffs Association of Medical Research Charities The Babraham Institute	Simon Denegri Professor Michael Wakelam, Dr Caroline Edmonds Dr Chris Kirk, Miss Alison McWhinnie Professor Janet Allen
Biochemical Society Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council BMT Ltd British Antarctic Survey British Computer Society British Council	Peter French Dr John Shears, Robert Culshaw David Evans Dr Lloyd Anderson, Dr Claire McNulty, Dr Yasemin Koc Dr Dan Osborn, Ceri Margerison Professor John Ludden Dr Stuart Green, Dr Stephen Davies Dr Miranda Stevenson
British Ecological Society British Geological Survey British Institution of Radiology British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums British Mycological Society British Nutrition Foundation British Pharmacological Society British Psychological Society	Professor G M Gadd Professor Judy Buttriss Kate Baillie Mike Laffan Professor Harriet Gross, Lucy Chaplin Professor Julia Goodfellow, Sir Roland Jackson Bt Mrs Tracey Guise
British Science Association British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy British Society for Immunology British Trust for Ornithology British Veterinary Association CABI Campden BRI Cavendish Laboratory Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science The Centre of Excellence for Life Sciences Ltd Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys Clifton Scientific Trust Ltd Comino Foundation Dstl	Professor Adrian Hayday, Ms Judith Willetts Dr Andy Clements Professor Bill Reilly Dr Joan Kelley Dr Steven Walker The Secretary Dr Richard Judge Michael Asher Dr Julian M Potter, R P Jackson, T W Roberts Dr Eric Albone John Slater, Mike Tomlinson Dr Frances Saunders

Scientific and Technical Organisations (continued)

Economic and Social Research Council	Professor Paul Boyle, Ms Danielle Moore
Energy Institute	Mrs Louise Kingham
Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council	Atti Emezc, Jenny Aranha
Engineering Professors' Council	Mrs Fiona Martland
Engineering UK	Paul Jackson
Environment Agency	Dr John Seager, Ms Jessica David
Food and Environment Research Agency	Professor Robert Edwards, Rob Chilton
Forest Research	Dr P H Freer-Smith
Foundation for Science and Technology	Dr Dougal J Goodman
Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilization	Professor Salim T S Al-Hassan,
Gatsby Technical Education Projects	Dr Anne-Maria Brennan
The Geological Society	Dr John Williams
The Ground Forum	Edmund Nickless
Hazards Forum	Rodney Chartres, Ms Dianne Jennings
Health and Safety Executive	Brian Neale, Dr I J Lawrenson
Health Protection Agency	Patrick McDonald
	Dr David Heymann,
	Professor Virginia Murray
Higher Education Funding Council for England	Sir Alan Langlands
Institute of Biomedical Science	N S Kirk, Ms Jill Rodney
Institute of Corrosion	Dr Douglas Mills
Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors	David O'Neill
Institute of Food Research	Dr Keith Waldron, Mrs Catherine Reynolds
Institute of Food Science and Technology	Jon Poole, Mrs Lindsey Bagley
Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining	Dr B A Rickinson, Dr G J M Woodrow
Institute of Mathematics & Its Applications	David Youdan
Institute of Measurement and Control	David Kent, Peter Martindale
Institute of Metal Finishing	Dr Peter Farr
Institute of Physics	Dr Robert Kirby-Harris, Professor Peter Main
Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine	Dr Chris Gibson, Dr Peter Jarritt,
Institution of Chemical Engineers	Dr Stephen Keevil
Institution of Civil Engineers	Andrew Furlong, Miles Seaman
	Mr Andrew Gooding, Graham Sibley,
	Vernon Hunte
Institution of Engineering and Technology	Dr Tony Whitehead, Paul Davies,
	Darren Gladwin
Institution of Mechanical Engineers	Stephen Tetlow
John Innes Centre	Dr Dee Rawsthorne
Licensing Executives Society	Mrs Christi Mitchell, Dr John Roe
Linnean Society of London	Dr Ruth Temple
London Mathematical Society	Prof P T Saunders, Professor David Larman, `
	Professor E Brian Davies
Marine Biological Association	Professor Colin Brownlee, Dr Matthew Frost
Materials UK	Professor Colin Seabrook
Medical Research Council	Sophie Broster-James
The Met Office	John Hirst

Scientific and Technical Organisations (continued)

The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts	Madeleine Hallward
National Oceanography Centre, Southampton	Professor Edward Hill
National Physical Laboratory	Dr Kamal Hossain, Professor John Pethica
Natural England	Andrew Wood, Suzanne Alcorn
Natural Environment Research Council	Professor Alan Thorpe, Parliamentary Liaison Officer
Natural History Museum	Dr Michael Dixon
New Engineering Foundation	Professor Sa'ad Medhat
Nuffield Council on Bioethics	Hugh Whittall, Catherine Joynson
Nutrition Society	Frederick Wentworth-Bowyer, Sarah James
Operational Research Society	Gavin Blackett, Dr Roger Forder
The Physiological Society	Dr Philip Wright, Professor Ian McGrath
Plymouth Marine Laboratory	Professor Stephen de Mora
Prospect	Sue Ferns, Nigel Titchen
Rothamsted Research	Stephen James
Royal Academy of Engineering	Philip Greenish, Dr A M Neville
Royal Astronomical Society	David Elliott, Professor Andy Fabian
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew	Professor Simon Owens
Royal College of Physicians	Chief Executive
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons	The President, Professor Sheila Crispin
The Royal Institution	Dr Gail Cardew
Royal Meteorological Society	Professor Paul Hardaker
Royal Pharmaceutical Society	The President, Ms Jayne Lawrence
Royal Society	Dr Julie Maxton, Dr James Wilsdon, Dr Peter Collins, Dr Peter Cotgreave
The Royal Society of Chemistry	Dr Stephen Benn
The Royal Society of Edinburgh	Lord Wilson of Tillyorn, Dr William Duncan
Royal Statistical Society	Dr Christl Donnelly
The Science Council	Ms Diana Garnham
Science & Technology Facilities Council	Professor Keith Mason, Mark Foster
Science Museum	The Director
SEMTA	Claire Donovan, Lynn Tomkins
Society for Applied Microbiology	Professor Peter Silley, Professor Geoff Hanlon, Philip Wheat
Society for Endocrinology	Ms Rachel Evans
Society for General Microbiology	Dr Ron Fraser
Society of Biology	Dr Mark Downs
Society of Cosmetic Scientists	The President
Society of Occupational Medicine	Ms Hilary Todd
TWI Ltd	Christoph Wiesner
Twycross Zoo	Mrs Suzanne Boardman, Dr Jen Spalton
UK Deans of Science	Professor Ian Haines
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare	Dr James Kirkwood
The Wellcome Trust	Dr David Lynn, Professor Derek Bell

Industrial Members

Appointed representatives of Industrial Members

Abbeyvet Export Limited	Dr Iain MacKellar
Abbott Diagnostics	Andy Bufton
AGC Chemicals Europe Ltd	Dr Terry Attwood
AgChemAccess Ltd	Ms Sarah Hurn
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry	Dr Allison Jaynes-Ellis
Association of Marine Scientific Industries	Paul Ridout, John Murray
AstraZeneca PLC	Dr Aileen Allsop
BASF Plc	Christopher Dale
Blackwell Publishing	Robert Campbell
BP plc	Dr Ellen Williams
British In Vitro Diagnostics Association	Ms Doris-Ann Williams
Chemical Industries Association	Fiona Ferguson
C-Tech Innovation	Ged Barlow
E.on UK	Chris Morrirt
Eli Lilly & Company Limited	Dr Karin Briner, Dr David Bowman
GE	David Boyd, Miles Webber, Simon Ashwell
Johnson Matthey Plc	Ian Godwin
LGC Ltd	Dr Derek Craston
Marks and Spencer plc	Paul Willgoss
Medtronic Ltd	Richard Devereaux-Phillips
Merck Sharp & Dohme Research	Dr Rob Pinnock, Dr Margaret Beer
Monsanto UK Ltd	Mark Buckingham
Mylnefield Research Services	Dr Nigel W Kerby
People Science and Policy Ltd	Mark Dyball
Pfizer Limited	Rachel Cashman, Nick Dusic
PHARMAQ Ltd	Dr Benjamin P North
Plant Impact Plc	Peter Blezard
Trident Sensors Ltd	Dr W R Simpson

Universities

Appointed representatives of Universities

University of Aberdeen	Professor Albert Rodger
Aston University	Professor Julia King
University of Bath	Professor Glynis Breakwell
University of Birmingham	Professor David Eastwood
Bournemouth University	Professor John Vinney
University of Brighton	Professor Andrew Lloyd
University of Bristol	Professor Eric Thomas
University of Cambridge	Stephen Jolly
University of Central Lancashire	Professor Paul Pollard
City University London	Professor Paul Curran
Cranfield University	Professor Sir John O'Reilly, Professor P Hutchinson

Universities (continued)

University of Durham
University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh
University of Hull
Imperial College London
Kings College London
University of Leicester
University of Liverpool
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
University of Loughborough
University of Manchester
Middlesex University
Napier University
Newcastle University
State University of New York
University of Nottingham
The Open University

University of Portsmouth
Queen Mary, University of London
University of Reading
The Robert Gordon University
Royal Holloway, University of London
University of Salford
The University of Sheffield
University of Strathclyde
University of Surrey
University College London

Warwick University

Professor Andrew Deeks
Professor David Richardson
Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea
Professor Lynne Frostick
Sir Keith O'Nions
Chris Mottershead
Professor Sir Robert Burgess
Professor Sir James Drummond Bone
Professor Baron Peter Piot
Professor Shirley Pearce
Dr John Roberts
Professor Michael Driscoll
Professor Joan K Stringer
Professor Nick Wright
Professor Alexander Rolov
Professor David Greenaway
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)
Professor John Turner
Professor Ursula Martin
Professor Gordon Marshall
Professor John Harper
Professor Philip Beesley
Professor Stephen Donnelly
Professor Anthony Ryan
Professor J McDonald
Professor Stephen Williamson
Professor Malcolm Grant,
Professor K M Spyer
Professor Stuart Palmer

Associate Members

The Copyright Licensing Agency
International Agriculture and Technology Centre
Manches LLP
Passerieu Consulting
Soroptomist International

Kevin Fitzgerald
Mrs Philippa David, Dr David Dent
Christopher Shelley
Ms Katherine Passerieu
Moira Hutchings, Sylvia Watson

Temporary Members (former APEG Members)

Individual Members

Mr Mac Andrade	Mr Barry Haseltine	Mr Alec McRitchie
Professor Rao Bhamidimarri	Emeritus Professor John Hutchinson	Dr Francesca Medda
Mr Roy Box		Mr Michael Neale
Mr Colin Buck	Dr William 'Stan' Jones	Mr Colin Patterson
Professor Derek J Clements-Croome	Mr Michael Kipp	Miss Hazel Prowse
Ms Diane Davy	Mr Steve Lamb	Mrs Linda Scott
Professor Fred Eastham	Mr Ian Lansley	Dr Janet Sidaway
Mr Reginald Gourgey	Mr John Lowe	Dr Andrew Spowage
	Mr Barry McGregor	

Corporate Members

British Fluid Power Association	Mr Ian Morris
East Midlands Engineering and Science Professionals (EMESP)	Mr Ian Treacy
GAMBICA Association	Dr Graeme Philp
IMarEST	Dr Bev MacKenzie
Institution of Engineering Designers	Ms Elizabeth Brodhurst
MTA	Mr Paul O'Donnell
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	Mr John Dalton
Rolls-Royce plc	Ms Helen Kennett
Smallpeice Trust	Mr Keith Davis
Society of Operations Engineers	Mr Nick Jones, Mr Ian Ling
The University of Greenwich	Dr Liz Bacon
The Worshipful Company of Engineers	Wing Commander Tony Willenbruch

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 15th June 2010 at 6 pm in the Boothroyd Room, Portcullis House. The Rt Hon the Lord Jenkin of Roding (President) chaired the meeting. The following extracts from the minutes contain the resolutions passed at the meeting:

Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Advisory Panel for 2010

Lord Jenkin announced that four officer-holders were retiring, either because they had left Parliament, had been promoted and could no longer serve or had completed their terms in office:

<i>Chairman</i>	Mr Ian Taylor MP
<i>Deputy Chairman</i>	Dr Evan Harris MP
<i>Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer</i>	Mr Robert Goodwill MP
<i>Advisory Panel</i>	Mr Paul Ridout

Lord Jenkin noted that none of the executive positions were contested:

<i>Chairman</i>	Mr Andrew Miller MP (nominated by Lord Jenkin; seconded by Dr P Jost)
<i>Deputy Chairman</i>	Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP (nominated by Lord Jenkin; seconded by Andrew Miller MP)
<i>Hon Treasurer</i>	Vacant until Phil Willis enters the House of Lords
<i>Hon Secretary</i>	Mr Stephen Mosley MP (nominated by Lord Jenkin; seconded by Andrew Miller MP)

Vice-Presidents

Lord Jenkin proposed the re-election of all the Vice-Presidents with the exception of Dr Brian Iddon, who had served longest. It was proposed that Mr Paul Ridout, who had served three years on the advisory panel, should fill the vacancy. The proposal was seconded by Dr Peter Jost and approved by the meeting.

Life Members

It had been agreed at a Council meeting on 19th January that the following

retiring MPs, who had all served as chairmen or officers of the Committee, should be elected Life Members:

Dr Ian Gibson	Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key	Dr Douglas Naysmith
Sir Michael Spicer	Ian Taylor
Dr Desmond Turner	

The Resolution to approve them as Life Members was proposed by Lord Jenkin, seconded by Andrew Miller MP and approved by the meeting.

Advisory Panel Members for 2010

It was proposed that Dr Stephen Benn be elected a member of the Advisory Panel to succeed Paul Ridout. The Resolution to approve the election of Dr Stephen Benn to the Advisory Panel was approved by the Committee.

Council Members for 2010

It had been agreed at the previous Council meeting that there should be further representation on the Council from engineering members; two names had been put forward by Philip Greenish:

David Brown, Chief Executive of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and also chair of the professional panel of engineering institutions; in the latter capacity, he chairs, and represents, all 36 engineering institutions.

Paul Jackson, Chief Executive of Engineering UK (was the ETB until recently) which has a role in promoting engineering, particularly to young people.

The Resolution to approve the additional Council members for 2010 was proposed by Lord Jenkin, seconded by Robert Freer and approved by the Committee.

Adoption of Annual Report for 2009

Lord Jenkin commented that Members would already have received their annual report. He thanked Peter Simpson for his hard work in getting out the Annual Report.

The Annual Report contains the summary of the AGM and meetings held over the course of the year, plus details of the membership.

The Resolution to Approve the Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by John Dudeney and seconded by Lord Soulsby.

Approval of Financial Statement for 2009 Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2010

As the retiring Treasurer was unable to attend the Scientific Secretary reported on the finances.

The Accounts showed an overspend of £1440 in 2009 and estimates for 2010 prepared in February 2010 indicated an anticipated increased overspend of £3237 for the year. This was estimated prior to arrangements that had been in operation since 1 May 2010 to employ additional part-time temporary staff, Miss Gemma Reay, and a volunteer, John Slater, Comino Foundation, without pay, to replace the Administrative Secretary who was currently on sick leave on full pay. The net additional spend arising would amount to about £480 monthly. It was therefore recommended by Council that Dr Dent be invited to reconvene the sub-committee that had rectified previous problems related to overspend.

Lord Jenkin thanked Professor Simpson for the report and agreed the overspend was a worrying trend; he supported the formation of a Dent sub-committee which was seconded by Richard Worswick and approved by the Committee.

Report from the Council

Membership

Lord Jenkin noted that as the Committee had lost many of its Commons membership at the General Election through retirement and defeat the secretariat was currently undertaking a programme to encourage new members to join. The President had written to all new MPs and there had been some interest amongst new members. He also reported that he had been encouraging non-parliamentary committee members to approach their MPs and suggest they join the P&SC.

Current membership was detailed in the annual report but the numbers had fallen again this year, although only slightly: 126 Science & Technical Organisations (down 2), 32 Industrial (down 3) members; 44 Universities and 4 Associate members (stayed the same). Two applications for membership were being processed and there was a third in the pipeline.

Programme

Lord Jenkin then briefly outlined the Committee's programme of meetings for July and the dates for those to be held in October, November and

December. He also indicated that a visit to Culham Science Centre had been proposed.

The Annual Lunch, which would take place in the Cholmondeley Room, House of Lords, was booked for 27th October

Science in Parliament

Lord Jenkin expressed his thanks to Brian Iddon for his leadership and direction of the Editorial Board and the updating of the style and content of the journal to meet the ever-increasing need for high quality articles related to the work of the Committee. His departure was a great loss to the Committee and he would be very difficult to replace. However, moves were now afoot to reconstruct the Editorial Board in order to continue emulating the high standards that he established. The website also continued to grow in importance and relevance as the proportion of material freely available to all comers increased.

The Whitsun issue would be received and delivered to Parliament the following day, 16th June. The summer edition was in progress and the theme would be risk.

Finally, Lord Jenkin thanked all the new officers and others for attending, and in turn Mr Miller thanked him for his hard work in keeping the Committee going following the election.

Report from Chairman



Andrew Miller MP

I was particularly pleased to be invited to stand for election as Chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee following the election. I took over from Ian Taylor MP who stood down and who had chaired the Committee for the previous twelve month period. Hence the first four events in 2010 reported on and also published comprehensively in Science in Parliament were undertaken during his tenure.

The events that he chaired ranged very widely across the STEM spectrum, characteristic of the traditional approach adopted by the P&SC, from brain research, marine engineering and science, and SET for Britain to the National Science and Engineering Week Seminar on seamless weather forecasting. These are all topics in which the UK scientific and industrial communities excel and also make major contributions to the economy. Indeed one of the main purposes of the Committee is to ensure that Parliamentarians from both Houses are confronted with and reliably informed of the ongoing importance of such activities to the national economy, and hence the vital need for maintaining scientific research budgets during periods of looming financial crisis.

I have picked up the baton and have continued to develop this overarching thematic approach, focusing initially on volcanic eruptions, catastrophic earthquakes and tsunamis, which might on reflection appear unfortunately too relevant in the light of recent events. But this does illustrate the need for much greater attention to be paid by governments of all persuasions to well-researched advice from scientists and engineers. However this predicates the need for a civil service both well informed of and able to respond to such information in a timely fashion.

However, it was perhaps the meeting on Science, Engineering and Politics that best expressed the complex interwoven nature of the role that the Committee attempts to bring to the table. The challenges around water security will remain very high on the agenda before too long as the south east struggles to manage the mismatch between population growth with ever declining precipitation and depleted underground reservoirs. So watch this space.

The Annual Lunch greatly welcomed David Willetts MP, Minister for Universities and Science as the Guest of Honour who proceeded to demonstrate the reasons he is held in such high regard by the STEM

community. Indeed, the feeling was mutual to the extent that investment in and understanding and financial support for STEM research and the likely future impact on manufacturing and export was very clearly acknowledged as an important contribution to economic recovery.

Indeed the need for an assessment of impact when proposing new research is now a common requirement. It would be unfortunate, however, if such considerations become universal as it is not always possible to predict in advance what the potential outcomes of research might generate, such as the discovery by Michael Faraday of electromagnetic induction and the invention of the electric motor.

The year ended with meetings demonstrating the increasingly important role of biomedical engineering in modern medicine to a discussion on the importance of dialogue between scientists and the public led by Dr Brian Johnson Chair of the Public Dialogue Steering Group.

I hope our members will agree that it was a year to remember with some satisfaction and also relief with the return to work, following the long absence, of Annabel Lloyd. We are all delighted to see her back in action after such a severe illness.

Andrew Miller

Addresses and Discussions

During 2010 there were meetings on the following subjects:

Full reports are published in Science in Parliament, see www.scienceinparliament.org.uk for further information.

19.1.10 What are the Probable Social Impacts of the Latest Brain Research?

Professor David Nutt FRCPsych FMedSci, The Edmond J Safra Chair in Neuropsychopharmacology Division of Neurosciences and Mental Health, Hammersmith Campus, Imperial College

Professor Colin Blakemore FMedSci FRS, Professor of Neuroscience, Department of Clinical Neurology, University of Oxford Chairman, Neuroscience Research Partnership, Singapore

Rudi Fortson, Independent Practising Barrister; Visiting Professor of Law, Queen Mary, University of London

9.2.10 Innovative Marine Engineering and Science – are we swimming or sinking?

Professor Peter Liss, University of East Anglia; The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology IMarEST

Colin Summerhayes, President, Society for Underwater Technology; The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology IMarEST

8.3.10 SET FOR BRITAIN Exhibition

Posters by early-stage and early-career research scientists, engineers and technologists

The day was divided into three separate areas with the following timings.

1. 12.30pm – 2.30pm Physical Sciences (Physics and Chemistry)
2. 3.30pm – 5.30pm Engineering
3. 6.30pm – 8.30pm Biological and Biomedical Science

The final of the 2010 SET for BRITAIN event took place in the House of Commons Marquee on Monday, 8th March 2010, sponsored by Dr Douglas Naysmith MP, Chairman of the SET for BRITAIN organising group of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

18.3.10 NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK SEMINAR

What is Seamless Weather Forecasting? How can we forecast years ahead and manage the global financial risks profitably?

Chaired jointly by Ian Taylor MBE MP and Professor John Beddington FRS

John Hirst, Chief Executive, Met Office

Dr Vicky Pope, Head of Climate Change Advice Met Office

Dr Matt Huddleston FRMetS, Principal Consultant, Climate Change, Met Office

Stephen Leonard, Chief Executive, IBM UK and Ireland

Matt Foote, Research Director, Willis Research Network

Christopher N Bray, Environmental Risk, Policy Management, Barclays

Peter Gibbs, Broadcast Meteorologist

Michael McCarthy, Environment Editor, The Independent

15.6.10 Volcanic Eruptions, Catastrophic Earthquakes & Tsunamis – How can we reduce the tolls on Humanity?

Professor Steve Sparks FRS, University of Bristol

Dr Rui Pinho, Secretary-General of the Global Earthquake Model

Dr Tiziana Rossetto, Director of Earthquake and People Interaction Centre (EPICENTRE) Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering University College London

13.7.10 Science, Engineering and Politics

Lord Oxburgh FRS, House of Lords

Dr Julian Huppert MP, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge

Pallab Ghosh, Science Correspondent, BBC News

19.10.10 Is Global Water Security Achievable? What are the consequences of failure?

Michael Norton MBE, Managing Director, Water & Power Halcrow Group Ltd

Professor Roger Falconer DSc(Eng) FEng, Halcrow Professor of Water Management, Director Hydro-environmental Research Centre, School of Engineering, Cardiff University

27.10.10 Annual Lunch

Guest Speaker: The Rt Hon David Willetts MP

16.11.10 How Engineering Provides Better Healthcare

Professor Molly Stevens, Professor of Biomedical Materials and Regenerative Medicine, Imperial College London

Professor Lionel Tarassenko FREng, Director, Institute of Biomedical Engineering University of Oxford; Chair, RAE's "UK Focus for Biomedical Engineering"

Professor John Fisher FREng, Director, Institute of Medical and Biomedical Engineering University of Leeds

7.12.10 Synthetic Biology Dialogue: What is the Public Perspective?

Professor Robert Winston FMedSci, House of Lords; Professor of Science and Society, Imperial College London

Dr Brian Johnson, Chair of Public Dialogue Steering Group

Professor Douglas Kell, BBSRC Chief Executive; The University of Manchester

Professor David Delpy, EPSRC Chief Executive

The website:

www.ScienceinParliament.org.uk

Dr Stephen Henley FGS FIMMM CEng, Webmaster

The P&SC's publication *Science in Parliament* (SiP) is available in digital format, including back numbers for download by Parliamentarians, members and subscribers. One year after publication, issues are available to all non-members free of charge in the interests of public information.

There is a searchable index of SiP articles all of which which can be downloaded free of charge by members or purchased by non-members. There is also a page for Special Papers, either unpublished in SiP, or extended versions of SiP papers, and Powerpoint slide shows from P&SC meetings, available to Parliamentarians, members and subscribers. Many of these items will be available to non-members.

Notices of all forthcoming meetings are posted on the website, with notification of any last-minute changes in venue or timing. Information on past meetings is also retained for at least a year, in case there are enquiries about an event that may have been missed.

There is also a Forum available to Parliamentarians, members and subscribers. This provides an opportunity for discussions, which are only accessible by password. Although its use is growing slowly, it provides an opportunity for airing topics and exchange of ideas.

The website is also managed alongside, and has links to, the website created for Set for Britain (www.SetForBritain.org.uk). This is an annual competition in the House of Commons for early-stage research scientists, with cash prizes and medals for posters describing their research in the fields of STEM subjects including bioscience, physics/chemistry and engineering. The Set for Britain website itself was extensively modified and improved for the 2011 competition, with applications fully online for the first time, rather than relying upon email submission.

Access to some parts of the website requires a login using the password available from the Administrative Secretary via the "contact" facility. Parliamentarians accessing the website from the Westminster estate are automatically logged in and have access to all areas of the website. Access to the website by Parliamentarians from their constituencies or elsewhere will require use of the password.

Report on Work by POST

POST Board 2010

Officers

Chair: Adam Afriyie
Vice-Chair: Professor the Lord Winston

House of Commons

Therese Coffey
Michael Connarty
Julian Huppert
Phillip Lee
Andrew Miller
David Mowat
Sarah Newton
Chi Onwurah
One vacancy

House of Lords

Lord Krebs
Lord Oxburgh KBE FRS
One vacancy

Non-Parliamentary Members

Professor Frances R Balkwill MBE
Sir David Davies CBE FRS FREng
Professor Jim Norton FIEE FRSA
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Ex-officio

Director of POST: David Cope
Department of Information Services (represented by John Pullinger)
Librarian of the House of Commons (represented by Christopher Barclay)
Department of Chamber and Committee Services (represented by Paul Evans)
House of Lords' administration (represented by Christine Salmon Percival)

POST Publications 2010

January	347	Climate Change: Engagement and Behaviour
	348	Insect Pollination
	349	Diagnosing Dementia
	350	Pets, Families and Interagency Working
	351	Lighting Technology
	352	Counterfeit Medicines

March	353	Renewable Heating
	354	Global Carbon Trading
	355	Space Debris
May		Science in the New Parliament
	356	Addictive Behaviours
	357	EU Fisheries Management
	358	Biochar
June	359	EU Science & Technology Funding
	360	Genetically Modified Insects
July	361	Space Weather
September	362	Resilience of UK Infrastructure
	363	Sea Level Rise
October	364	Drug Pricing
	365	Electric Vehicles
November	366	UK Indoor Air Quality
	367	Biofortification

POST Fellowship schemes

2010 saw an increase in the range of postgraduate fellowship schemes offered by POST. During the year 19 doctoral fellows worked at POST. They were supported by the following organisations, to which POST is grateful:

- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
- Commonwealth Professional Fellowship
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
- Institute for Food Science and Technology
- Medical Research Council
- National Endowment for Science, Technology and Arts
- Natural Environment Research Council
- Parliamentary Science and Technology Information Foundation
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- The Wellcome Trust

POST Seminars and meetings

During 2010 POST hosted parliamentary seminars on the following subjects: Behavioural Economics; Robotic Visions: Young People's Views on the Future of Robotics Technology; Land Use Futures; Insect Pollination: Causes and Consequences of Decline; Genetically Modified Insects; MPs and Science: Science, Uncertainty, Evidence and Policy; Science in the New Parliament; Mental Health of Military Personnel; Political and Market Factors Affecting Developments in Energy Technology and Climate Change.

Select Committee work

During 2010 POST worked most closely with the following select committees:

House of Commons

Transport; Welsh Affairs; International Development; and Health

House of Lords

Communications and Science & Technology

Joint Committee on the Draft Marine Bill

International activities

During the year, presentations were made at the following international conferences or workshops, in the UK or abroad:

Wilton Park conference on 'The High North, challenges and opportunities'

Aegis Europe annual conference of European energy insurance companies on 'Parliaments and climate change', in Prague

Ditchley Park conference on 'The multilateral system and climate change'

Wilton Park conference on 'Science and diplomacy'

Departments of Nuclear Engineering of the University of California, Berkeley and University of Tokyo, joint conference on the future of nuclear power, on nuclear power in Europe

L'Institut des Hautes Etudes pour la Science et la Technologie (IHEST), France, on UK stem cell policy

UNESCO/ISESCO seminar on science and technology for parliaments organised by the Parliament of Syria in Damascus

Session on 'Science and diplomacy' at the annual STS Forum in Kyoto

NATO-funded conference on the 'Future of the Arctic', Scott Polar Research Institute

Conference in Brussels on undergrounding of high tension power lines.

During the year, POST has also continued to expand its special programme of activities for parliaments in Africa.

POST has also seen a dramatic increase in requests to receive inbound delegations from China and, during the year, also received delegations from the Finnish Parliament's Committee for the Future and from the French Parliament's Senate.

Copies of *Science in Parliament* contain full details of all POST publications and events.

Science in Parliament

The Journal of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Science in Parliament has two main objectives:

- To provide for the scientific community an insight into the information and briefings supplied to Members of Parliament on scientific subjects.
- To keep Members of both Houses of Parliament abreast of developments in science and engineering.

Published four times a year, each issue includes:

- Authoritative addresses to the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. Recent addresses have included those on Science, Engineering and Politics; How Engineering provides better Healthcare; and Global Water Security
 - Reports on the activities of the Select Committees on Science and Technology in the House of Commons and House of Lords
 - A summary of the briefings received by Parliamentarians from the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology and the Science and Environment Section of the House of Commons Library.
 - The Science Directory is a source of expert advice or impartial opinion on scientific and technological subjects.
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