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.

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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!

Patrick Jenkin
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

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Dr Stephen Benn

Secretariat
Eur Ing Professor Peter Simpson
Mrs Annabel Lloyd
3 Birdcage Walk, London SW1H 9JJ
T: 020 7222 7085
F: 020 7222 7189
E: lloyda@pandsctte.demon.co.uk
parliamentaryandscientificcommittee@hotmail.co.uk
www.scienceinparliament.org.uk

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

House of Commons

Adam Afriyie
Ian Austin
Bob Blackman
Tom Blenkinsop
Sir Peter Bottomley
Andrew Bridgen
Dr Terese Coffey
Oliver Colville
Michael Connarty
Nick Dakin
David Davies
The Rt Hon David Davis
Nigel Evans
Robert Flello
Paul Flynn
George Freeman
Mark Garnier
Mrs Helen Goodman
Robert Goodwill
Stephen Hammond
Charles Hendry
Dr Julian Huppert
Hon Bernard Jenkin
David Jones
Andrew Love
Ms Ann McKechnie
Esther McVey
Andrew Miller
Austin Mitchell
Stephen Mosley
David Mowat
Brooks Newmark
Chi Onwurah
Richard Ottaway
James Paice
Alok Sharma
Alec Shelbrooke
Graham Stringer
Ian Swales
Ed Vaizey
Ben Wallace
Tom Watson
Stephen Williams
Dr Sarah Wollaston
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 FEng)
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 Crogthorne
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  Dr Helen Munn
AIRTO  Professor Richard Brook OBE FREng
Association for Clinical Biochemistry  Dr Graham Groom, Joe O'Meara,
                                      Professor Donald W Moss
Association for Science Education  Annette Smith
Association of Consulting Scientists  The Chairman, Dr Chris Chatfield
Association of Management &  Michael Cocks, Tony Harding
  Professional Staffs
Association of Medical Research Charities  Simon Denegri
  The Babraham Institute
Biochemical Society  Professor Michael Wakelam,
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences  Dr Caroline Edmonds
  Research Council
BMT Ltd  Dr Chris Kirk, Miss Alison McWhinnie
British Antarctic Survey  Professor Janet Allen
British Computer Society  Peter French
British Council  Dr John Shears, Robert Culshaw
British Ecological Society  David Evans
British Geological Survey  Dr Lloyd Anderson, Dr Claire McNulty,
British Institution of Radiology  Dr Yasemin Koc
British and Irish Association of Zoos  Dr Dan Osborn, Ceri Margerison
  and Aquariums
British Mycological Society  Professor John Ludden
British Nutrition Foundation  Dr Stuart Green, Dr Stephen Davies
British Pharmacological Society  Dr Miranda Stevenson
British Psychological Society  Professor G M Gadd
British Science Association  Professor Judy Buttriss
British Society for Antimicrobial  Kate Baillie
  Chemotherapy
British Society for Immunology  Mike Laffan
British Trust for Ornithology  Professor Harriet Gross, Lucy Chaplin
British Veterinary Association  Professor Julia Goodfellow,
CABI  Sir Roland Jackson Bt
Campden BRI  Mrs Tracey Guise
Cavendish Laboratory  Professor Adrian Hayday, Ms Judith Willetts
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and  Dr Andy Clements
  Aquaculture Science
The Centre of Excellence for Life  Professor Bill Reilly
  Sciences Ltd
Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys  Dr Joan Kelley
Clifton Scientific Trust Ltd  Dr Steven Walker
Cominio Foundation  The Secretary
DSTL  Dr Richard Judge
Department of Trade and Industry  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
Energy Institute
Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council
Engineering Professors' Council
Engineering UK
Environment Agency
Food and Environment Research Agency
Forest Research
Foundation for Science and Technology
Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilization
Gatsby Technical Education Projects
The Geological Society
The Ground Forum
Hazards Forum
Health and Safety Executive
Health Protection Agency

Higher Education Funding Council for England
Institute of Biomedical Science
Institute of Corrosion
Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors
Institute of Food Research
Institute of Food Science and Technology
Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining
Institute of Mathematics & Its Applications
Institute of Measurement and Control
Institute of Metal Finishing
Institute of Physics
Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
Institution of Chemical Engineers
Institution of Civil Engineers

Institution of Engineering and Technology
Institution of Mechanical Engineers
John Innes Centre
Licensing Executives Society
Linnean Society of London
London Mathematical Society

Marine Biological Association
Materials UK
Medical Research Council
The Met Office

Professor Paul Boyle, Ms Danielle Moore
Mrs Louise Kingham
Atti Emecz, Jenny Aranha

Mrs Fiona Martland
Paul Jackson
Dr John Seager, Ms Jessica David
Professor Robert Edwards, Rob Chilton
Dr P H Freer-Smith
Dr Dougal J Goodman
Professor Salim T S Al-Hassan,
Dr Anne-Maria Brennan
Dr John Williams
Edmund Nickless
Rodney Chartres, Ms Dianne Jennings
Brian Neale, Dr I J Lawrenson
Patrick McDonald
Dr David Heymann,
Professor Virginia Murray
Sir Alan Langlands
N S Kirk, Ms Jill Rodney
Dr Douglas Mills
David O'Neill
Dr Keith Waldron, Mrs Catherine Reynolds
Jon Poole, Mrs Lindsey Bagley
Dr B A Rickinson, Dr G J M Woodrow
David Youdan
David Kent, Peter Martindale
Dr Peter Farr
Dr Robert Kirby-Harris, Professor Peter Main
Dr Chris Gibson, Dr Peter Jarritt,
Dr Stephen Keevil
Andrew Furlong, Miles Seaman
Mr Andrew Gooding, Graham Sibley,
Vernon Hunte
Dr Tony Whitehead, Paul Davies,
Darren Gladwin
Stephen Tetlow
Dr Dee Rawsthorne
Mrs Christi Mitchell, Dr John Roe
Dr Ruth Temple
Prof P T Saunders, Professor David Larman,
Professor E Brian Davies
Professor Colin Brownlee, Dr Matthew Frost
Professor Colin Seabrook
Sophie Broster-James
John Hirst
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scientific and Technical Organisations (continued)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts</td>
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<td>National Oceanography Centre, Southampton</td>
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<td>National Physical Laboratory</td>
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<td>Operational Research Society</td>
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<td>Plymouth Marine Laboratory</td>
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<td>Rothamsted Research</td>
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<td>Royal Academy of Engineering</td>
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<td>Royal Astronomical Society</td>
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<td>Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew</td>
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<td>The Science Council</td>
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<td>Science &amp; Technology Facilities Council</td>
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<td>Science Museum</td>
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<td>SEMTA</td>
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<td>Society for Applied Microbiology</td>
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<td>Society for Endocrinology</td>
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<td>Society for General Microbiology</td>
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<td>Society of Biology</td>
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<td>Society of Cosmetic Scientists</td>
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<td>Society of Occupational Medicine</td>
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<td>TWI Ltd</td>
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<td>UK Deans of Science</td>
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<td>Universities Federation for Animal Welfare</td>
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<td>The Wellcome Trust</td>
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Industrial Members

Appointed representatives of Industrial Members

Abbeyvet Export Limited
Abbott Diagnostics
AGC Chemicals Europe Ltd
AgChemAccess Ltd
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Association of Marine Scientific Industries
AstraZeneca PLC
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Andy Button
Dr Terry Attwood
Ms Sarah Hurn
Dr Allison Jeynes-Ellis
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Dr Aileen Allsop
Christopher Dale
Robert Campbell
Dr Ellen Williams
Ms Doris-Ann Williams
Fiona Ferguson
Ged Barlow
Chris Morriss
Dr Karin Briner, Dr David Bowman
David Boyd, Miles Webber, Simon Ashwell
Ian Godwin
Dr Derek Craston
Paul Willgoss
Richard Devereaux-Phillips
Dr Rob Pinnock, Dr Margaret Beer
Mark Buckingham
Dr Nigel W Kerby
Mark Dyball
Rachel Cashman, Nick Dusic
Dr Benjamin P North
Peter Blezard
Dr W R Simpson

Universities

Appointed representatives of Universities

University of Aberdeen
Aston University
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
Bournemouth University
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Central Lancashire
City University London
Cranfield University

Professor Albert Rodger
Professor Julia King
Professor Glynis Breakwell
Professor David Eastwood
Professor John Vinney
Professor Andrew Lloyd
Professor Eric Thomas
Stephen Jolly
Professor Paul Pollard
Professor Paul Curran
Professor Sir John O'Reilly,
Professor P Hutchinson
## Universities (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Professor</th>
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<tr>
<td>University of Durham</td>
<td>Professor Andrew Deeks</td>
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<td>University of East Anglia</td>
<td>Professor David Richardson</td>
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<td>University of Edinburgh</td>
<td>Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea</td>
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<td>University of Hull</td>
<td>Professor Lynne Frostick</td>
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<td>Imperial College London</td>
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<td>Chris Mottershead</td>
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<td>University of Leicester</td>
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<td>London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine</td>
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<td>The Open University</td>
<td>Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)</td>
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<td>University of Portsmouth</td>
<td>Professor John Turner</td>
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<td>Queen Mary, University of London</td>
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<td>The Robert Gordon University</td>
<td>Professor John Harper</td>
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<td>Royal Holloway, University of London</td>
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<td>Warwick University</td>
<td>Professor K M Spyer</td>
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<td>Professor Stuart Palmer</td>
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## Associate Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Person</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Copyright Licensing Agency</td>
<td>Kevin Fitzgerald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Agriculture and Technology Centre</td>
<td>Mrs Philippa David, Dr David Dent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manches LLP</td>
<td>Christopher Shelley</td>
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<td>Passerieu Consulting</td>
<td>Ms Katherine Passerieu</td>
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<td>Soroptomit International</td>
<td>Moira Hutchings, Sylvia Watson</td>
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</table>
### Temporary Members (former APEG Members)

#### Individual Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mr Mac Andrade</th>
<th>Mr Barry Haseltine</th>
<th>Mr Alec McRitchie</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Rao Bhamidimarri</td>
<td>Emeritus Professor John Hutchinson</td>
<td>Dr Francesca Medda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Roy Box</td>
<td>Dr William ‘Stan’ Jones</td>
<td>Mr Michael Neale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Colin Buck</td>
<td>Mr Michael Kipp</td>
<td>Mr Colin Patterson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Derek J Clements-Croome</td>
<td>Mr Steve Lamb</td>
<td>Miss Hazel Prowse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms Diane Davy</td>
<td>Mr Ian Lansley</td>
<td>Mrs Linda Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Fred Eastham</td>
<td>Mr John Lowe</td>
<td>Dr Janet Sidaway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Reginald Gourgey</td>
<td>Mr Barry McGregor</td>
<td>Dr Andrew Spowage</td>
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#### Corporate Members

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

Chairman

Mr Ian Taylor MP

Deputy Chairman

Dr Evan Harris MP

Hon Secretary

Mr Robert Goodwill MP

and Hon Treasurer

Advisory Panel

Mr Paul Ridout

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

Chairman

Mr Andrew Miller MP

( nominated by Lord Jenkin; seconded by Dr P Jost)

Deputy Chairman

Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP

( nominated by Lord Jenkin; seconded by Andrew Miller MP)

Hon Treasurer

Vacant until Phil Willis enters the House of Lords

Hon Secretary

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.
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) FREng, 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 FEng
Professor Jim Norton FIEE FRSA
Professor Eckhard K H Salje FRS

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

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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 Personal; 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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