



# The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

An Associate Parliamentary Group



Annual  
Report  

---

2011

**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*

Portcullis House looking from the south in the grounds on the Houses of Parliament  
Ozeye, June 2009



## Foreword by the President

### The Rt Hon the Lord Jenkin of Roding

The President's Foreword to the Annual Report of the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee is, by custom, an opportunity to reflect on current issues and future activities.

First, I must start by thanking Andrew Miller most warmly for his Chairmanship of the Committee. He has done this most admirably during the year past, steering the Committee, sometimes through stormy waters, with skill and tact. He has been well supported by the other officers and the Council, whom I also wish to thank. Andrew combines this duty with the Chairmanship of the House of Commons Select Committee on Science and Technology. I believe that this is the first time that both Chairs have been held by the same person; I am in no doubt that this has helped our Committee to ensure that our Discussion Meetings are relevant, innovative and informed.

Second, might I say a few words about the continuing impact of the Report of an Inquiry I chaired for the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology – "Science and Society"? To my astonishment, this has turned out to be one of the most influential such reports published in the UK. Twelve years later its impact is apparent not just in this country, but across many other countries in the world, as evidenced by a Conference at which I spoke which was attended by representatives of nearly 60 nations.

In this context, perhaps one outcome has been the understanding response of the UK public to the Fukushima nuclear disaster. On Friday, 11th March 2011, one of the most powerful earthquakes ever to hit Japan caused a catastrophic tsunami to sweep ashore onto the Tuhoku coast in the North-East of the country. (The full horror of this was described to our Discussion Meeting on October 18th last year, by Professor Will Stewart.)

The loss of life and the destruction of infrastructure were massive. Inevitably, perhaps, most attention was focused on the damage caused by the tsunami to the Daiichi nuclear complex at Fukushima. There were fears of a huge

release of radioactivity, and hundreds of thousands of people were evacuated from a large area round the complex. The courage and perseverance of the staff at the complex eventually ensured that the plants were made safe, and it is a fact that not one single life has yet been lost as a result of the escape of radioactivity.

But the fears aroused resulted in several nations, notable among them Germany, deciding that civil nuclear power was no longer an acceptable source of energy, and embarking on an accelerated phasing out of their nuclear industry.

In the UK, matters were handled very differently. We owe it in no small measure to the steady hand of Dr Mike Weightman, HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations, and Executive Head of the Office of Nuclear Regulation, who issued a very thorough Report on the many lessons to be learned by the UK Industry from Fukushima but recommended that there was no need to halt the nuclear renaissance in the UK. Dr Weightman was also asked by the International Atomic Energy Agency to produce a Report for that body – a measure of the trust in which the UK's regulatory system is held.

Dr Weightman's work was later presented to the Committee at our Annual Lunch and he impressed us all with his wise and balanced approach. As a result, the UK authorities were swiftly able to confirm that the UK's programme of nuclear new build could proceed as planned. No less important, public support for the programme has hardly faltered.

I hope that it is not fanciful to see this as a consequence of the increasing engagement of Parliament and the public by scientists and engineers – an objective of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee – and a central recommendation of "Science and Society".

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

# The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

An Associate Parliamentary Group

## Office-holders 2011

### 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

3 Birdcage Walk

London SW1H 9JJ

T: 020 7222 7085

F: 020 7222 7189

E: [annabel.lloyd@parliament.uk](mailto:annabel.lloyd@parliament.uk)

E: [office@pandsctte.demon.co.uk](mailto:office@pandsctte.demon.co.uk)

[www.scienceinparliament.org.uk](http://www.scienceinparliament.org.uk)

## Council

*At the end of 2011 the following were members of the Council:*

Dr Stephen Benn

Professor John Bleby

Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP

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

Dr Robert Kirby-Harris

Professor Alan Malcolm

Dr Julie Maxton

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 2011

## 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	Paul Flynn	Stephen Mosley
Ian Austin	George Freeman	David Mowat
Bob Blackman	Mark Garnier	Brooks Newmark
Tom Blenkinsop	Mrs Helen Goodman	Chi Onwurah
Sir Peter Bottomley	Robert Goodwill	Richard Ottaway
Andrew Bridgen	Stephen Hammond	James Paice
Dr Therese Coffey	Charles Hendry	Alok Sharma
Oliver Colvile	Dr Julian Huppert	Alec Shelbrooke
Michael Connarty	Hon Bernard Jenkin	Graham Stringer
Nic Dakin	David Jones	Ian Swales
David Davies	Andrew Love	Ed Vaizey
The Rt Hon David Davis	Ms Ann McKeichin	Ben Wallace
Nigel Evans	Esther McVey	Tom Watson
Robert Ffello	Andrew Miller	Stephen Williams
Rt Hon Caroline Flint	Austin Mitchell	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 Sir 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 Sir 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 Rod Smith)  
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Communities and Local Government (Professor Jeremy Watson)  
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Professor John Perkins CBE FREng)  
Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Dr Rupert Lewis)

## 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 2011*

Academy of Medical Sciences	Dr Helen Munn
AIRTO	Professor Richard Brook OBE FREng
The Arkwright Scholarships Trust	Mrs Linda Scott OBE
Association for Clinical Biochemistry	Joe O'Meara
Association for Science Education	Annette Smith
Association of Consulting Scientists	The Chairman, Dr Chris Chatfield
Association of Management & Professional Staffs	Michael Cocks, Tony Harding, Marijke Smith
Association of Medical Research Charities	Sharmila Nebhrajani
The Babraham Institute	Professor Michael Wakelam, Dr Caroline Edmonds Dr Chris Kirk Professor Janet Allen
Biochemical Society	
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT	Karen Tuck
BMT Ltd	Peter French
British Antarctic Survey	Dr John Shears, Robert Culshaw
British Council	Dr Claire McNulty, Dr Yasemin Koc
British Ecological Society	Dr Dan Osborn, Ceri Margerison
British Fluid Power Association	Ian Morris CEng
British Geological Survey	Professor John Ludden
British Institute of Radiology	Dr Stuart Green, Dr Stephen Davies
British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums	Dr Miranda Stevenson
British Nutrition Foundation	Professor Judy Buttriss
British Pharmacological Society	Kate Baillie
British Psychological Society	Mike Laffan, Lucy Chaplin
British Science Association	Professor Dame Julia Goodfellow, Sir Roland Jackson Bt Mrs Tracey Guise
British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy	
British Society for Immunology	Professor Adrian Hayday, Ms Judith Willetts
British Trust for Ornithology	Dr Andy Clements
British Veterinary Association	Professor Bill Reilly
CABI	Dr Joan Kelley
Campden BRI	Dr Steven Walker
Cavendish Laboratory	The Secretary
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	Dr Richard Judge
Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys	Dr Julian M Potter, R P Jackson, T W Roberts
Clifton Scientific Trust Ltd	Dr Eric Albone
Comino Foundation	John Slater
The Design and Technology Association	Richard Green
Dstl	Dr Frances Saunders
East Midlands Engineering and Science Professionals	Ian Treacy
Economic and Social Research Council	Professor Paul Boyle, Ms Danielle Moore



## Scientific and Technical Organisations (continued)

Energy Institute	Mrs Louise Kingham
Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council	Atti Emecz, Jenny Aranha
Engineering Professors' Council	Mrs Fiona Martland
EngineeringUK	Paul Jackson
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,
GAMBICA Association	Dr Anne-Maria Brennan
Gatsby Technical Education Projects	Dr Graeme Philp
The Geological Society	Dr John Williams
The Ground Forum	Edmund Nickless
	Rodney Chartres, Keith Gabriel,
Hazards Forum	Ms Dianne Jennings
Health and Safety Executive	Brian Neale, Dr I J Lawrenson
Health Protection Agency	David Bench
	Dr David Heymann, Professor Virginia Murray,
	Dr John Stephenson
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
The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology	Dr Bev MacKenzie
Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining	Dr B A Rickinson, Dr G J M Woodrow
Institute of Mathematics & Its Applications	David Youdan, Professor John R Whiteman
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
	Dr David Brown, Andrew Furlong,
	Miles Seaman
Institution of Civil Engineers	Eur Ing Richard Coackley, Mike Chrimes,
	Graham Sibley
Institution of Engineering Designers	Ms Elizabeth Brodhurst
Institution of Engineering and Technology	Dr Tony Whitehead, Paul Davies,
	Darren Gladwin, FL Pitt
Institution of Mechanical Engineers	Stephen Tetlow, Kate Heywood
John Innes Centre	Dr Dee Rawsthorne
Licensing Executives Society	Mrs Christi Mitchell, Dr John Roe
Linnean Society of London	Dr Elizabeth Rollinson
London Mathematical Society	Professor P T Saunders,
	Professor Angus Macintyre, Fiona Nixon
Marine Biological Association	Professor Colin Brownlee, Dr Matthew Frost
Materials UK	Professor Colin Seabrook

## Scientific and Technical Organisations (continued)

Medical Research Council	Sophie Broster-James
The Met Office	John Hirst, John Harmer
The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts	Guy Bilgorri
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 Duncan Wingham, 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, Jennifer Norton
Operational Research Society	Gavin Blackett, Dr Roger Forder
The Physiological Society	Dr Philip Wright, Michelle Brook
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, Professor Michael Wood, Barry Haseltine, Dr William 'Stan' Jones, Michael Neale
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, Tony McBride, Dr Peter Cotgreave
The Royal Society of Chemistry	Dr Neville Reed, Lorraine Martin
The Royal Society of Edinburgh	Sir John Arbuthnott, Dr William Duncan
Royal Statistical Society	Dr Christl Donnelly, Andrew Garratt
The Science Council	Ms Diana Garnham
Science & Technology Facilities Council	Professor John Womersley, Professor Colin Whitehouse, Mark Foster
Science Museum	Ian Blatchford
SEMTA	Belinda Peral
Society for Applied Microbiology	Professor Peter Silley, Professor Geoff Hanlon, Philip Wheat
Society for Endocrinology	Ms Rachel Evans
Society for General Microbiology	Dariel Burdass
Society of Biology	Dr Mark Downs, Dr Stephen Benn
Society of Cosmetic Scientists	The President
Society of Occupational Medicine	Ms Hilary Todd
TWI Ltd	Christoph Wiesner, John Wintle
Twycross Zoo	Mrs Suzanne Boardman, Dr Jen Spalton
UK Deans of Science	Professor Ian Haines

## Scientific and Technical Organisations (continued)

Universities Federation for Animal Welfare	Dr James Kirkwood
The Wellcome Trust	Dr David Lynn
The Worshipful Company of Engineers	Wing Commander Tony Willenbruch

## Industrial Members

### *Appointed representatives of Industrial Members*

Abbeyvet Export LLP	Dr Iain MacKellar
Abbott Diagnostics	Andy Bufton
AGC Chemicals Europe Ltd	Dr Terry Attwood
AgChemAccess Ltd	Nick Gooch
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry	Dr Allison Jeynes-Ellis
AstraZeneca PLC	Nicola Marchant
BASF Plc	Dr Geoff Mackey, Andrew Mayer
BP plc	Dr Ellen Williams
British In Vitro Diagnostics Association	Ms Doris-Ann Williams
Chemical Industries Association	Simon Marsh
C-Tech Innovation	Ged Barlow
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, David Richardson
Lipmann Walton & Co Ltd	Anthony Lipmann
Marks and Spencer plc	Paul Willgoss
Medtronic Ltd	Richard Devereaux-Phillips
Monsanto UK Ltd	Mark Buckingham
MSD	Dr Rob Pinnock
MyInfield Research Services	Dr Nigel W Kerby
Pfizer Limited	Annette Doherty, Dr Devyn Smith, Alan Maine, Dr Adam Heathfield
PHARMAQ Ltd	Dr Benjamin P North
Plant Impact Plc	Peter Blezard
Rolls-Royce	Helen Kennett
Society of Maritime Industries	Paul Ridout, John Murray
Trident Sensors Ltd	Dr W R Simpson
Wiley-Blackwell	Robert Campbell

## Universities

### *Appointed representatives of Universities*

University of Aberdeen	Professor Albert Rodger
Aston University	Professor Julia King
University of Bath	Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell, Professor Fred Eastham

## Universities (continued)

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

University of Durham  
University of East Anglia  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Greenwich  
University of Hull  
Imperial College London  
Kings College London  
University of Leicester  
University of Liverpool  
London School of Hygiene and Tropical  
Medicine  
London South Bank University  
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  
The University of Sheffield  
University of Strathclyde  
University of Surrey  
University College London

Warwick University

Professor David Eastwood  
Professor John Vinney  
Professor Andrew Lloyd  
Professor Eric Thomas  
Stephen Jolly  
Robert Wallace  
Professor Paul Curran  
Professor Sir John O'Reilly,  
Professor P Hutchinson  
Professor Andrew Deeks  
Professor David Richardson  
Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea  
Dr Liz Bacon  
Professor Lynne Frostick  
Sir Keith O'Nions  
Chris Mottershead  
Professor Sir Robert Burgess  
Sir Howard Newby  
Professor Baron Peter Piot  
  
Professor Rao Bhamidimarri  
Professor Shirley Pearce  
Dr John Roberts  
Professor Michael Driscoll  
Professor Joan K Stringer  
Professor Nick Wright  
Professor Alexander Orlov  
Professor David Greenaway,  
Dr Andrew Spowage  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)  
Professor John Turner  
Professor Ursula Martin  
Sir David Bell,  
Professor Derek J Clements-Croome  
Professor John Harper  
Professor Philip Beesley  
Professor Anthony Ryan  
Professor J McDonald  
Professor Stephen Williamson  
Professor Malcolm Grant, Professor K M Spyer,  
Dr Francesca Medda, Professor David Walker  
Professor Stuart Palmer

## Associate Members

The Copyright Licensing Agency  
Manches LLP  
Passerieu Consulting

Kevin Fitzgerald  
Christopher Shelley  
Ms Katherine Passerieu

# Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 14th June 2011 at 4.30 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 2011**

The President said that the Chairman proposed that, because of the importance of implementation of the new Constitution, on this occasion, all serving Officers, Vice-Presidents and Advisory Panel Members of the Committee were deemed eligible for re-election unless they wished to retire. He added that the secretariat had not been informed that any office-holder wished to retire.

The motion to re-elect all current office-holders (below) was seconded by Lord Morris of Manchester and approved by the meeting.

President: The Rt Hon the Lord Jenkin of Roding

Chairman: Mr Andrew Miller MP

Deputy Chairman: Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP

Hon Treasurer: The Lord Willis of Knaresborough

Hon Secretary: Mr Stephen Mosley MP

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

Advisory Panel: Dr Robert Kirby-Harris  
Mr Philip Greenish CBE  
Dr Stephen Benn

## **Adoption of Annual Report for 2010**

The Annual Report had been circulated to members. Lord Jenkin said he had chosen to comment in his Foreword on the tenth anniversary of the *Science and Society* report. He also remarked on the wide range of topics covered in the meetings held during 2010, welcoming the increased emphasis on engineering subjects reflecting the addition to the Committee of former members of the Associate Parliamentary Engineering Group.

The motion to adopt the 2010 Annual Report was proposed by Lord Morris of Manchester, seconded by Dr Stephen Benn and approved by the meeting.

## **Approval of Financial Statement for 2010 Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2011**

The Hon Treasurer, the Lord Willis of Knaresborough, proposed that the financial statement for 2010 be approved. The proposal was seconded by Lord Morris of Manchester and approved by the meeting.

The Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2011, introduced by the Hon Treasurer, showed an expected deficit of £4,423 for the year; he commented that the Committee could not continue to run at a loss and steps should be taken to remedy the situation. His proposal that the Estimates be approved was seconded by Philip Greenish and approved by the meeting.

### *Post-Meeting Hospitality*

The Chairman, Andrew Miller MP, announced that, with effect from the July meeting, the post-meeting dinners would be returning to Bellamy's in 1 Parliament Street. The costs of post-meeting hospitality had risen sharply since October 2010, when the House of Commons Banqueting Department had imposed a steep increase in charges. Thanks to Peter Simpson, the Committee had been extremely fortunate in obtaining support for some recent dinners.

### *Increases in Subscriptions for 2012*

Lord Willis reminded members that subscriptions, which ran from January to December, had not been increased since January 2009.

He proposed that from January 2012 subscription rates should be as follows:

Scientific and Technical Organisations	£325
Industrial members	
Organisations with fewer than 10 employees (except Trade Associations)	£300
Organisations with 11–500 employees (including Trade Associations with small secretariats)	£600
Organisations with more than 500 employees	£1,000

University members £325  
Associate members £325  
His proposal was seconded by John Slater and agreed by the meeting.

On behalf of the Committee, Lord Willis thanked Philip Macdonald of PJMA for his work on the monthly payroll and the quarterly and annual accounts.

## **Amendments to the Constitution, Legal and Charitable Status**

### *Amendments to the Constitution*

Lord Jenkin outlined the proposed changes to the Constitution:

The inclusion of the Preamble briefly describing the history of the Committee and signed by him as President;

The introduction throughout the Constitution of the term 'engineering' as appropriate following the merger with APEG;

Clause 3.3: more precise definition of the role and responsibilities and the number of Vice Presidents of The Committee;

Clause 3.5: removed and replaced by Powers under Council (Clause 8.1);

Clause 5: amendments to introduce 'engineering' where appropriate and to include a new Clause 5.7 Honorary Members

Clause 8: definition of the Composition and Powers of the Council, including the power to make Rules;

Clause 9: introduction of a Finance section. Rules defined in Clause 8.1 can be used to introduce appropriate financial management practices as required.

Clause 12: definition of the means by which amendments can be made to the Constitution.

Clause 13: although dissolution and reforming of the Committee occur at every election this has now been made explicit and in the intervening period a mechanism for dissolution has been added.

After discussion on Clause 5 (Qualifications for Membership) an amended new Clause 5.7 was proposed by Lord Willis:

#### 5.7 Honorary Members

The Committee may appoint honorary members who by virtue of their standing or their office may appropriately engage in the Committee's activities.

The proposal was seconded by Andrew Miller MP and agreed by the meeting.

After some discussion Lord Willis proposed that the Committee accept the new Constitution, designed to include the term 'engineering' and to bring the existing Constitution up to date. His proposal was seconded by Philip Greenish and approved by the meeting.

The new Constitution can be found on pages 17–24 of this report.

#### *Proposal to Register the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee as a Charity*

Introducing the proposal that the Committee apply to register with the Charity Commission, Lord Jenkin said that there were advantages in doing so and that quite a few all-party groups were charities. Mr Lawrey said registration as a charity would not involve much additional administration; the prime interest of the Charity Commission was in the behaviour of the Trustees and the relationship between the Trustees and the Charity Commission.

The Proposal that the Committee should seek registration with the Charity Commission was agreed by the meeting.

#### *Proposal for The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee to register as a Company Limited by Guarantee*

Lord Jenkin said that registration as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) would safeguard the officers of the Committee as the guarantee would be the extent of liability if the company were sued, and there were advantages of moving in that direction. The proposal had been considered carefully by Mr Lawrey and the Council.

After two members of the Committee had indicated that they were not convinced of the need to apply for registration as a CLG and questioned the timing of the proposal, Lord Jenkin suggested that the resolution that the Committee should apply to Companies House to register the Committee as a Company Limited by Guarantee should not be moved.

The President then closed the Annual General Meeting; the Chairman's Report from the Council would be available as a written document attached to the minutes, which can be found on the Committee's website: [www.scienceinparliament.org.uk](http://www.scienceinparliament.org.uk).





## Report from Chairman

**Andrew Miller MP**

Having completed a full year of activities I am now in a position to be able to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Committee's programme. This will help initiate actions leading to improvements for the benefit of our Members across the very wide spectrum of topics which we cover.

The Committee is unlike any other All Party Group in that it is not constricted by well-defined silos, and is free to address those areas lying between unrelated disciplines. These may sometimes lack sufficient attention, but often present both new opportunities and new problems as well. Politicians are more aware than most of the law of unintended consequences where actions undertaken to deal with a specific set of circumstances may impose unintended negative impacts elsewhere in the system.

The unifying objective of several current policies is to aim to identify and help promote those STEM-related topics which are most likely to contribute to the economic recovery of the global economy. This is one of the key policy objectives of the Coalition and resonates well with the wealth of skills and expertise demonstrated by our Members. This approach can be initiated in many different ways from a wide range of starting points.

The United Kingdom has a long and honourable legacy in this arena. The topics that were considered worthy of our attention this year arose by adopting proposals put forward by our Members who were keen to ensure greater recognition of the impressive progress that has been made across a wide range of disciplines. This is enormously satisfying as it demonstrates the outstanding abilities of many of our Members and their undoubted professional and marketing skills at the same time. Furthermore, it gives credence to the view that the Committee is one of the best places to publicise these initiatives to a wide and responsive audience.

While the Addresses and Discussions section of this report provides a brief summary of these events, a much more detailed and in-depth account is provided by the articles published in *Science in Parliament*, and also on the Website. These now provide a comprehensive review of the work of the

Committee. As a result the Website is receiving increasing numbers of hits and enquiries. In addition, Members are now encouraged to purchase the right to place *Science in Parliament* on their own websites to stimulate a broader readership among Member Organisations.

We will continue to develop our own objectives and strategies for future meetings and related activities. My door will always be open to our Members in order to be able to hear from them what it is they wish to bring to the attention of a wider audience.

Andrew Miller

# THE PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

## THE CONSTITUTION

### PREAMBLE

Founded in 1939 amid the perils of the threat of war, the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee came into being to guide Parliament and the Government on the role of science and technology. It was the first All-Party Associate Parliamentary Group.

After the war, it was responsible for securing a number of innovative changes in the relations between science, Government and Parliament. It was this Committee which started the process that eventually led to the formation of POST – the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology. It also was very influential in the establishment of the Science and Technology Select Committees in both Houses of Parliament – Committees which have a vital role in holding Ministers to account, and helping to ensure that MPs and Peers – and Ministers – are kept aware of trends and discoveries in Science and Technology. The Committee has been described by Prime Ministers as ‘a unique British Institution’.

Successive Officers and Councils have successfully ensured that we continue to have an important role. We are a focus and think-tank for Science and Technology. We are an influential bridge between scientists, engineers and technologists in industry, academia, the professions, and Members of both Houses. We are a platform for those able to put forward new ideas which need consideration in Parliament; for those who have new scientific advances to report, and for those seeking to influence the research policies of Departments.

The P&SC continues today its tradition of forward-looking and innovative approaches to ensure proper and effective communication of science and engineering in Parliamentary and public affairs. Long may it continue!

*The Rt Hon the Lord Jenkin of Roding  
President*

### 1. OBJECTS

There shall be a Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (hereinafter called “The Committee”). The objects of The Committee shall be:

to maintain its status as a Registered Parliamentary Group comprising Members of both Houses of Parliament, British Members of the European Parliament and representatives of scientific, engineering and technical organisations, industrial organisations, universities, and affiliated organisations;

to provide a long-term liaison between Parliament, Scientific & Engineering Bodies, Science & Engineering based Industry, the Academic World and those affected by science and engineering;

to ensure that Parliament should have proper regard for the importance of scientific methods in relation to public affairs;

to provide Members of both Houses of Parliament through meetings and other activities with authoritative scientific information from time to time in connection with Parliamentary business;

to take appropriate action through Parliamentary channels wherever necessary to reinforce the views expressed by members on matters of public interest and legislation, especially for financing scientific, engineering and technological research, education and development, and to ensure that proper regard is had for the scientific point of view;

to provide its members and other approved subscribers with a regular summary of scientific, engineering and technological matters dealt with in Parliament.

## **2. THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee shall consist of:

the Officers of The Committee as defined in Clause 3.1;

the members of the Advisory Panel as defined in Clause 3.2;

the Vice Presidents of The Committee as defined in Clause 3.3;

Members of both Houses of Parliament including those hereditary peers in membership of the Committee on 8th November 1999 who have elected to join The Committee;

British Members of the European Parliament who have elected to join The Committee;

the Scientific and Technical Organisations elected as satisfying Clause 5.1;

the Industrial Members elected as satisfying Clause 5.2;

the Universities elected as satisfying Clause 5.3;

Associate Members elected as satisfying Clause 5.4;

Life Members elected as satisfying Clause 5.5;

Individual Members elected as satisfying Clause 5.6;

Honorary Members (with no voting rights) to a maximum of 5 who shall be nominated by the Chairman and co-opted on an annual basis by The Committee as persons of special qualifications for assisting The Committee's work;

certain persons up to a maximum of 10, by virtue of their posts, invited by the Chairman, with the agreement of the Council.

There shall be a Council as defined in Clause 8 which shall be responsible for the general direction, management and operations of The Committee.

### **3. PRESIDENTS, OFFICERS AND APPOINTEES**

3.1 The Honorary Officers of The Committee shall consist only of members of either House of Parliament who shall be elected annually in accordance with these rules and in respect of whom the election shall be announced in advance in All-Party Notices. The Honorary Officers shall consist of:

- a) A President
- b) A Chairman
- c) Two Deputy Chairmen
- d) Two Secretaries
- e) A Treasurer

3.2 There shall be an Advisory Panel comprising three non-Parliamentary Members who shall have seats on the Council in accordance with Clause 8. Their function shall be to advise and assist and undertake such duties as may be assigned by the Honorary Officers. The Advisory Panel shall consist of one member to be known as vice-chairman and two as special advisors.

3.3 There shall be a maximum of ten Vice Presidents who shall not be Officers of The Committee but who shall have seats on the Council in accordance with Clause 8. The function of the Vice Presidents is to support The Chairman and The President in the active promotion of the Objects and activities of the Committee and in this role each Vice President shall have responsibility for a particular area which shall be assigned by the Chairman which may include, but not be restricted to, scientific and engineering disciplines or subject matters, matters of Governance, Membership and Recruitment, Fund Raising, Media and Publicity, International Relations, Building Partnerships and/or to raise the profile of specific matters such as Science Education, Innovation, Science Communication.

3.4 The Officers and Advisory Panel and Vice Presidents enumerated above shall be elected or re-elected at the Annual General Meeting of The Committee but no Officer or member of the Advisory Panel or Vice President shall be eligible for re-election to any Office or as a member of the Advisory Panel or as a Vice President where that person occupied the post for three consecutive years but subject to this three-year rule being waived in respect of any Officer or member of the Advisory Panel or Vice President if The Committee recommends that special circumstances justify such a course.

### **4. MEMBERSHIP**

4.1 The Committee shall consist of a minimum of ten Members from the Government Party or Parties together with ten from Parties, Independent Members and Cross Benchers in opposition (including at least six from the main Opposition Party) and those numbers may include Members of the House of Lords.

#### **4.2 Parliamentary Members**

Any member of either House of Parliament including those hereditary peers in membership of the Committee on 8th November 1999 or British Member of the European Parliament shall be eligible to be a member of The Committee.

#### 4.3 Non-Parliamentary Members

Any Organisation or Individual shall be eligible to be elected as a member of The Committee subject to satisfying the qualifications for membership set out in Clause 5.

### 5. QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

#### 5.1 Scientific and Technical Organisations

An organisation or society shall be eligible for election to The Committee as a Scientific and Technical Organisation if the Council is satisfied that it is either:

(i) A National Institution or Association for qualifying scientists, engineers or technologists; or

(ii) A Research Organisation which is not of a profit-making character, or part of an individual commercial or profit-making undertaking, and which is either directly engaged in natural or social science, pure or applied, or both providing funds for research to be conducted by other bodies and also taking a direct part in determination of the programmes of such research, or

(iii) A body, the contribution of which to the scientific life of the country makes its membership, in the opinion of the Council, desirable in order to advance the agreed objects of The Committee.

In reaching a decision with regard to eligibility regard shall be had to the extent to which the branch of science, engineering or technology represented by the applicant organisation is already adequately represented on The Committee.

*Note.* No organisation which had been elected to membership by The Committee prior to January 1963, shall, however, be rendered ineligible for membership under this sub-clause.

#### 5.2 Industrial Members

The Council may also elect to The Committee up to a maximum of 100 Industrial Members, such maximum being subject to modification at any subsequent Annual General Meeting. Such members shall be Industrial Companies registered in the UK or UK nationalised Undertakings or organisations representing a sector of industry. In electing an Industrial Member, the Council shall have regard to the desirability of ensuring that the Industrial Membership as a whole is representative of as wide a range as possible of activities involving Science, Engineering and Technology. In reaching a decision as to eligibility regard shall be had to the extent to which the applicant is engaged in scientific, engineering or technological research.

#### 5.3 Universities

Universities of the UK, Institutions in Scotland and Northern Ireland equivalent to schools and colleges of individual universities where appropriate shall be eligible for election by the Council. In reaching a decision as to eligibility regard shall be had to the extent to which the applicant is engaged in scientific, engineering or technological research.

#### 5.4 Associate Members

The Council may elect to The Committee as Associate Members the following: Bodies which, although not engaged in scientific research, represent the interests of those who are significantly affected by science and which, in the opinion of the Council, are in a position to contribute positively to the work of the Committee.

#### 5.5 Life Members

The Committee may also elect up to a maximum of twenty-five life members who, on retirement from Parliament or their institution, will qualify by having served The Committee either as officers or in some other capacity and given valuable service to it. It will be the responsibility of the Council to recommend such former members for this category.

#### 5.6 Individual Members

The Committee may also elect individual members who, on retirement from Parliament or their institution, wish to remain actively engaged in the Committee's activities. Individual membership shall have a term of five years, which shall be renewable. It will be the responsibility of the Council to recommend individuals for this category.

#### 5.7 Honorary Members

The Committee may appoint honorary members who by virtue of their standing or their office may appropriately engage in the Committee's activities.

### 6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Rules regarding subscription fees (Clause 8.2) for membership and the fee for The Committee's journal Science in Parliament shall be determined by Council and introduced upon approval at an Annual General Meeting.

### 7. SERVICES

All subscribing members shall be entitled to receive free of charge agenda, minutes and publications of The Committee except Science in Parliament.

### 8. COUNCIL

The Council shall consist of the following members:

- (a) The Officers, members of the Advisory Panel and Vice Presidents
- (b) Not less than ten other representatives from the Non-Parliamentary Membership
- (c) Members of either House of Parliament
- (d) UK Members of the European Parliament

Membership of the Council shall not exceed 50.

At meetings of the Council a quorum will be ten and at a quorate meeting Council may exercise all the Powers (Clause 8.1) exercisable by the Council.

Members of the Council appointed by the Chairman under sub-section (b) above shall cease to be eligible for appointment after five years consecutive service on the Council.

Council shall meet not less than twice a year.

### 8.1 Powers

In pursuance of The Committee's Objects the Council shall be responsible for the general direction and operations of The Committee and have the following powers:

Employ staff and consultants and recruit volunteers;

Open and operate such bank and other accounts as the Council consider necessary;

Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property of the Committee;

Establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the Objects;

Receive contributions through a membership fee;

Raise funds; in doing so, the Council must comply with Parliamentary regulations and statutory requirements;

Set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;

Obtain and pay for such goods and services as are necessary for carrying out the work of the Committee;

Lease, hire or purchase property and equipment and maintain it for use;

Take out insurance;

Liaise and work in partnership with other organisations, statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them;

Acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other organisations formed for any of the Objects;

Establish sub groups or committees to address specific purposes or responsibilities;

Conduct public meetings;

Produce, distribute and sell publications;

Hold meetings and run events;

Promote and advertise its activities and membership;

Conduct research;



Lead, conduct and contribute to public inquiries;

Do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

## 8.2 Rules

Council may from time to time make Rules for the conduct of The Committee's business. The Rules may regulate the following matters but need not be restricted to them:

The admission of members of The Committee (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such members, and any entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;

The conduct of members of The Committee in relation to one another, and to the Committee's employees and volunteers;

The procedure at general meeting and meetings of the Council in so far as such procedure is not regulated by this Constitution;

The keeping and authenticating of records.

Generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of the Rules of an unincorporated association.

The Committee in general meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the Rules.

The Council must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the Rules to the notice of members of The Committee.

The Rules shall be binding on all members of The Committee. No Rule shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in this constitution.

## 9. FINANCE

The Council shall ensure that all monies raised through subscriptions and other activities of The Committee will go towards furthering the Objects and activities of The Committee.

The Treasurer shall keep up to date financial records and make regular interim financial reports to Council and a full financial report at the Annual General Meeting.

Council shall nominate at least two but no more than four authorised signatories for the Committee Bank Account(s), one of whom must be The Committee's Treasurer.

The Council may from time to time authorise an independent financial audit of The Committee's accounts; the results of which shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

## **10. MEETINGS**

The purpose of meetings shall be to pursue the objectives of The Committee as set out in Clause 1.

There shall be a minimum number of three meetings per annum of The Committee.

There shall be an Annual General Meeting each calendar year.

At meetings of The Committee at which resolutions affecting participating bodies can be adopted a quorum will be 20.

## **11. THE PARLIAMENTARY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION FOUNDATION (PSTIF)**

The Parliamentary Science and Technology Information Foundation (PSTIF) is a charitable trust which liaises with The Committee. The Trust contains a provision that the Officers of The Committee have power in writing to discharge Trustees and appoint new and additional Trustees of the PSTIF. In exercising any power to appoint or discharge Trustees, the Officers of The Committee shall consult The Committee.

The funds of the PSTIF Trust may only used with the consent of the Trustees and in accordance with the Trust Deed dated 29 July 1988.

## **12. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Amendments to the Constitution must be ratified by a two thirds majority vote at an Annual General Meeting or at a General Meeting called to address matters of the Constitution.

No alteration of this Constitution or any special resolution shall have retrospective effect to invalidate any prior act of the Council.

## **13. DISSOLUTION**

The dissolution of The Committee may be achieved:

Upon dissolution of the House of Commons for a General Election or

By a motion proposing dissolution that is carried by two thirds of the membership attending a General Meeting of the Committee specifically called for this purpose.

# Addresses and Discussions

During 2011 there were meetings on the following subjects:

*Full reports are published in Science in Parliament, see [www.scienceinparliament.org.uk](http://www.scienceinparliament.org.uk) for further information.*

## **1.2.11 Medical Physics: from Blue Skies to Bedside. Turning Today's Cutting-Edge Science into Tomorrow's Healthcare Technology**

*Dr Andy Simmons PhD CSci FIPeM, Reader in Neuroimaging and Consultant Clinical Scientist, King's College London Institute of Psychiatry, South London and Maudsley NHS, Foundation Trust and NIHR Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health*

*Professor Nicholas Stone MBA PhD CSci FIPeM, NIHR Senior Research Fellow, Consultant Clinical Scientist and Head of Biophotonics Research, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust*

*Dr Carl Rowbottom PhD CSci FIPeM CPhys MInstP, Radiotherapy Physics Group Leader, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust*

## **15.2.11 Can the Economy Survive without a National Measurement System?**

*Dr Brian Bowsher, Managing Director, National Physical Laboratory*

*Roger Digby, Head of Materials and Process Integration, Aircraft Programmes, Airbus*

*Dr Julian Braybrook, Head of Measurement R&D at LGC, Chair of British Standards Regenerative Medicine Committee*

## **14.3.11 SET for BRITAIN Exhibition and Competition**

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

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

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

The final of the 2011 SET for BRITAIN event took place in the House of Commons Marquee on Monday, 14th March 2011, sponsored by Andrew Miller MP, Chairman of the SET for BRITAIN organising group of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

More information from [www.setforbritain.org.uk](http://www.setforbritain.org.uk)

**17.3.11 NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK SEMINAR  
in collaboration with the Parliamentary Space Committee (PSC)**

**Space – How Can We Use It?**

*Chaired jointly by Andrew Miller MP (P&SC), Adam Afriyie MP (PSC) and Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Minister for Universities and Science, BIS*

*John Zarnecki, Professor of Space Science, Planetary & Space Sciences Research Institute, Open University*

*Paul Monks, Professor of Atmospheric Chemistry, Leicester University, UK Centre Earth Observation Instrumentation*

*Michael Lawrence, Head of Special Projects, Technology Strategy Board (TSB)*

*Phil Davies, Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd*

*Bill Simpson, Trident Sensors*

**26.4.11 Influenza – What are the likely Threats of Flu to the UK? How can Science help ameliorate the consequences?**

*Professor Wendy Barclay, Chair in Influenza Virology, Imperial College, London*

*Dr Sarah Gilbert, Reader in Vaccinology, Jenner Institute, University of Oxford*

*Professor Maria Zambon, Director of the HPA Centre for Infections, Health Protection Agency*

**17.5.11 Strategic Metals – How can Geoscience help Increase Resources?  
How will a supply Shortage Impact on the UK?**

*Andrew Bloodworth MSc CGeol, Head of Science, Minerals and Waste, British Geological Survey, Nottingham*

*Dr Hazel Prichard, Mineral Deposits Studies Group, Geological Society, London*

*Anthony Hartwell, Knowledge Transfer Manager, University of Birmingham*

**14.6.11 Site Visit To LGC Queens Road, Teddington  
10.00 am – 2.30 pm**

*Visit by members of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and of the House of Commons Select Committee for Science and Technology*

*By invitation of the Chief Executive, David Richardson*

**14.6.11 Nuclear Energy – What are the Risks? – What are the Advantages?**

*Malcolm Grimston, Associate Fellow, Energy Environment & Development Programme, Chatham House; Honorary Fellow, Centre for Environmental Technology, Imperial College*

*Robin Grimes, Professor of Materials Physics, Imperial College*

*John Roberts, Nuclear Fellow, Dalton Nuclear Institute, The University of Manchester*

**12.7.11 What does the Future hold for Pharma in the UK?**

*Dr Allison Jeynes-Ellis, Medical-Innovation Director, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry*

*Dr Michael Hutton, Chief Scientific Officer, Neurodegeneration Drug Hunting Team, Eli Lilly and Company Ltd*

*Richard Ascroft, Director Corporate Affairs, Eli Lilly and Company Ltd*

*Dr Simon Campbell CBE FRS FRSC, Former SVP for WW Discovery, Pfizer*

**18.10.11 Wetter, Warmer, Windier...Will the UK's Infrastructure Cope?**

*Professor Jim Hall FREng, Director, Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University*

*Professor Will Stewart FREng, Chair of the Communications Policy Panel, Institution of Engineering and Technology*

*Professor Brian Collins CB FREng, Professor of Engineering Policy, University College, London*

**8.11.11 Annual Lunch**

*Guest Speaker: Dr Mike Weightman, HM Chief Inspector of Nuclear Installations and Executive Head of the Office of Nuclear Regulation*

**22.11.11 Is Scientific Freedom the Elixir of Civilisation?**

*Professor Don Braben, Honorary Professor of Earth Sciences, University College, London*

*Professor James Ladyman, Professor of Philosophy, University of Bristol*

*Professor Ben Davis, Department of Chemistry, University of Oxford*

*Professor David Delpy, Chief Executive and Deputy Chair, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)*

**13.12.11 What is the Public Understanding of Risk?**

*Dr Chris Elliott FREng, System Engineer and Barrister*

*David Simmons, Managing Director, Analytics, Willis Re*

*Dr John Swanson FIET, National Grid*

# The website: [www.ScienceinParliament.org.uk](http://www.ScienceinParliament.org.uk)

*Dr Stephen Henley FGS FIMMM CEng, Webmaster*

The website provides the definitive record of all activities and publications of the Parliamentary & Scientific Committee.

The P&SC's publication *Science in Parliament* (SiP), including back numbers, is available 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 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.

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.

Website usage is steadily increasing, from a level of around 1000 page loads per month in 2009 and 2010 to a current monthly level of 2000+ page loads. The website has been designed for accessibility, but further improvements in site navigation and appearance are currently under development, and it is planned to release a new website design during the coming year.

The website is managed alongside, and has links to, the website created for Set for Britain ([www.SetForBritain.org.uk](http://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 2012 Set for Britain competition attracted 412 entries (compared with 290 in 2011), with direct submission of entries to an online database, and this was developed further for the current year, providing additional facilities to make it easier for the administrators and judges to manage such a large number of entries. Development and use of the online database has allowed substantial savings in administrative cost and effort.

# Report on Work by POST

## POST Board 2011

### 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

### House of Lords

Lord Krebs  
Lord Oxburgh KBE FRS  
Lord Haskel

### Non-Parliamentary Members

Professor Frances R Balkwill MBE  
Sir David Davies CBE FRS FREng  
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 (represented by Paul Evans)  
Committee Services  
House of Lords' administration (represented by Christine Salmon Percival)

## POST Publications 2011

January	368	Rare Earth Metals
	369	Biodiversity Offsetting
	370	Environmental Limits
	371	Housing and Health
February	372	Future Electricity Networks
April	373	Water Adaptation in Africa
	374	Unconventional Gas
May	375	Detecting Deception
	376	Natural Capital Accounting



	377	The Ecosystem Approach
	378	Ecosystem Service Valuation
June	379	Evidence Based Conservation
	380	Landscapes of the Future
	381	Mental Capacity and Healthcare
	382	Informal STEM Education
	383	Carbon Footprint of Electricity Generation
July	384	Biofuels from Algae
September	385	Water in Production and Products
	386	GM Crops and Food Security
	387	Anaerobic Digestion
	388	Marine Planning
	389	Cyber Security in the UK
October	390	Clinical Trials
	391	An Ageing Workforce
	392	Livestock Disease
	393	Improving Livestock
	394	Invasive Tree Pests and Diseases
December	395	Explosive Injuries
	396	Natural Flood Management

### **POST Fellowship schemes**

In 2011, 20 doctoral fellows worked at POST. They were supported by the following organisations, to which POST is grateful:

- The Institution of Chemical Engineers and the Northeast of England Process Industry Cluster – who supported the first fellowship in memory of POST’s former Chair, the late Dr Ashok Kumar MP
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
- Commonwealth Scholarship Commission
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
- Institute for Food Science and Technology
- National Endowment for Science, Technology and Arts
- Natural Environment Research Council
- Royal Society of Chemistry
- The Wellcome Trust Biomedical Ethics Programme
- The Wellcome Trust Humanities and History of Medicine Programme
- The British Psychological Society
- The British Ecological Society

### **POST Seminars and meetings**

During 2011, POST hosted parliamentary seminars on the following subjects: Critical Mineral Resources: Rare Earth Metals and Beyond; Radio Spectrum Licences and Auctions; Foresight Global Food and Farming Futures; Biodiversity Offsetting; Energy Futures: The Research Councils UK Energy

Research Programme; British Science Association, Science Communication Conference; Landscapes of the Future; Examining Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths Education for Ages 14–19; The Fukushima Dai-Ichi Incident, Implications for the UK, France, Japan and the International Community.

### **Select Committee work**

During 2011 POST worked most closely with the following select committees:

*House of Commons:* Public Administration, Environmental Audit, International Development, Justice, Environment Food and Rural Affairs, Transport, Defence.

*House of Lords:* EU Sub-committee D, Science and Technology

### **International activities**

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

A seminar, organised by POST's French counterpart, OPECST held at the Assemblée Nationale in Paris on Technological Advances in Medicine;

A one-day workshop on UK-Japan collaboration on development of low-cost satellites in Tokyo;

The 2011 Directors' Meeting of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment network (EPTA), in Karlsruhe, Germany;

The International Atomic Energy Agency's Ministerial Conference on the Fukushima incident, in Vienna;

The 2011 Science and Technology in Society Forum in Kyoto, at which POST Board member, Dr Chi Onwurah chaired a session on the future of Information Technologies;

The Centre for Research and Development Strategies, Tokyo, on 'The Voice of Science, United, Unified or Counterpoint?';

A seminar organised by the European commission DG Environment's on 'Landscapes of the Future' in Brussels;

The Annual EPTA Council and Conference held at the Bundestag in Berlin. At this former POST Board member, Lord Willis of Knaresborough, made a presentation on the work on Geo-engineering carried out by the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee, under his chairmanship;

Two public evidence sessions organised by the French Parliament's Assemblée Nationale and Sénat, for inquiries into nuclear policy post-Fukushima and national innovation policy.

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

# 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 the Future of Pharma in the UK, "Wetter, Warmer, Windier ... Will the UK's Infrastructure Cope?", Scientific Freedom, and the Public Understanding of Risk.
  - 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.
- 

Enquiries to:

Science in Parliament

3 Birdcage Walk, London SW1H 9JJ

Tel: 020 7222 7085 Fax: 020 7222 7189

[www.scienceinparliament.org.uk](http://www.scienceinparliament.org.uk)