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It is a rare privilege to be allowed to write the Chairman's Editorial, but as I write, we have no Chairman - until our AGM on 16th June. After this we will know the name of the P&SC chair.

When Parliament is dissolved as happened at the end of March, many good things came to an end including all All Party Parliamentary Groups (of which there are more than 600!).

Happily, once the House of Commons reappears, the phoenix of all the APPGs will arise.

I am therefore delighted to be holding the fort pro tem.

This also gives me an opportunity to comment on one of the differences between the two Houses.

The paucity of scientists in the Commons has often been commented upon. This is exaggerated. There may only have been one PhD scientist in the last Parliament, but there were many more with first degrees in science.

The Lords of course are different because a dozen or so were appointed specifically because of their previous scientific careers.

Interestingly both Houses tackled an important topic recently – that of mitochondrial

transfer – and both went with the science. That is not to downplay the ethical issues which attach to human reproduction, but all the relevant issues were well aired. Once again the UK has shown the way in the application of science to increasing human health and happiness.

As I write, ministerial appointments are being announced by the new Government. We are watching closely for the appointment of a Minister for Science. We shall seek to have him speak to us at an early date. We shall see.



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The Committee is an Associate Parliamentary Group of members of both Houses of Parliament and British members of the European Parliament, representatives of scientific and technical institutions, industrial organisations and universities.



Science in Parliament has two main objectives:

1. to inform the scientific and industrial communities of activities within Parliament of a scientific nature and of the progress of relevant legislation;
2. to keep Members of Parliament abreast of scientific affairs.

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