



The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

An All-Party Parliamentary Group



**Annual
Report**

2014

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

An All-Party Parliamentary Group

Office-holders 2014

President

The Lord Oxburgh KBE FRS

Past Presidents

The Rt Hon the Lord Jenkin of Roding

The Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior

The Rt Hon the Lord Waldegrave of North Hill

The Earl of Selborne GBE FRS

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT FRS

Vice-Presidents

Mr Paul Ridout

Mr Philip Greenish CBE

Mr John Slater

Dr Stephen Benn

Mr Atti Emecz

Professor Ian Haines

Dr Guy Hembury

Professor Colin Seabrook MBE

Hon Treasurer

The Lord Willis of Knaresborough

Hon Secretary

Mr Stephen Mosley MP

Chairman

Mr Andrew Miller MP

Deputy Chairmen

Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP

Mr Stephen Metcalfe MP

Advisory Panel

Mr David Youdan

Dr Stuart Taylor

Dr David Dent

Secretariat

Professor Alan Malcolm

Mrs Annabel Lloyd

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Council

At the end of 2014 the following were members of the Council:

Dr Stephen Benn

Mr Tom Blenkinsop MP

Dr David Dent

Mr Atti Emecz

Mr Philip Greenish

Professor Ian Haines

Dr Guy Hembury

The Baroness Hilton of
Eggardon

Dr T D Inch

Mr Paul Jackson

Professor H Peter Jost

Mr Stephen Metcalfe MP

Mr Andrew Miller MP

Mr Stephen Mosley MP

Dr Douglas Naysmith

The Lord Oxburgh

Mr Paul Ridout

Professor Colin Seabrook MBE

The Earl of Selborne

Mr R G Sell

Mr John Slater

The Lord Soulsby of
Swaffham Prior

Mr Ian Taylor

Dr Stuart Taylor

Dr Desmond Turner

Lord Willis of

Knaresborough

Dr Richard Worswick

Mr David Youdan



Foreword by the President

The Lord Oxburgh KBE FRS

Last year was the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee in the shadow of the Second World War. To mark the occasion our former President, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, welcomed us to an evening reception at Buckingham Palace. We believe that we are the only All Party Group to have been accorded this signal honour. The evening was attended by many of our members, supporters and friends. By common consent it was an outstanding success.

It could be considered careless of an organisation such as ours to lose two of its senior officers in quick succession but that is the situation in which in spite of its years of experience, the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee found itself.

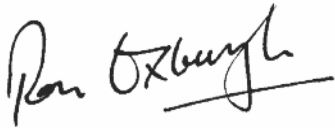
Towards the end of the last parliamentary session our former President Lord Jenkin of Roding retired after 50 years in Parliament, both in the Lords and in the Commons. He had been a staunch supporter of science, engineering and technology both as a member and minister in the Commons and subsequently in the Lords where he is particularly remembered for chairing an inquiry into the public understanding of science. I am delighted and daunted to have been elected his successor.

The formal reason that we are now without a Chairman is, of course, the prorogation of Parliament and the holding of a General Election. The practical reason is that Andrew Miller who has served with distinction as our Chairman decided not to contest his parliamentary seat again and will not be returning to Westminster. Andrew has been an exceptionally engaged Chairman who has put particular effort into encouraging young people into science and a very successful Science Week provided a most fitting finale to his Chairmanship.

At the time of its formation the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee was the only Parliamentary All Party Group, and then as now it embraced all sides of science and engineering with the aim of both informing Parliamentarians and providing a forum in which they could meet members of both the industrial and academic communities. Over time the relevance of technology

and science to parliamentary work has steadily increased but external pressures mean that it has become harder and harder for parliamentarians to find the time to attend meetings. The Committee's Council is now exploring new ways of meeting the Parliamentary needs of today.

We look forward to carrying this initiative forward under a new Chairman who we expect to be elected early in the new parliament

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ron Oxburgh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Membership 2014

Parliamentary Membership

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.

House of Lords

Baroness Andrews	Lord Jopling	Viscount Simon
Lord Armstrong	Lord Judd	Viscount Slim
Lord Boswell of Aynho	Lord Kakkar	Lord Soulsby of Swaffham
Lord Broers	Lord Krebs	Prior
Lord Brooke of Sutton	Lord Mackenzie of Culkein	Lord Stevenson of
Mandeville	Lord McColl of Dulwich	Coddenham
Lord Clement-Jones	The Countess of Mar	Lord Stoddart of Swindon
Lord Craig of Radley	Lord May of Oxford	Lord Stone of Blackheath
Lord Davies of Coity	Viscount Montgomery of	Lord Sutherland of
Baroness Dean	Alamein	Houndwood
Lord Deben	Baroness Neville-Rolfe	Lord Taverne
Lord Framlingham	Baroness Nicholson of	Lord Tebbit
Baroness Gibson of Market	Winterbourne	Lord Thomas of Macclesfield
Rasen	Baroness Northover	Baroness Thornton
Baroness Gould of	Lord Oxburgh	Lord Tombs of Brailes
Potternewton	Lord Patel of Dunkeld	Lord Trees of the Ross
Baroness Greenfield	Lord Patten	Lord Trefgarne
Baroness Hamwee	Baroness Perry of Southwark	Lord Turnberg
Lord Haskel	Baroness Platt of Writtle	Baroness Turner of Camden
Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield	(dec'd 1.2.15)	Lord Vinson of Roddam Dene
Baroness Hilton of Eggardon	Lord Rea	Lord Wade of Chorlton
Lord Howe of Aberavon	Lord Rees of Ludlow	Lord Waldegrave of North Hill
Baroness Howe of Idlicote	Lord Ribeiro	Baroness Walmsley
Lord Howie of Troon	Viscount Ridley	Lord Walton of Detchant
Lord Hoyle	Lord Rooker	Baroness Warwick of
Lord Hunt of Chesterton	Lord Sainsbury of Turville	Undercliffe
Lord Hunt of Wirral	The Earl of Selborne	Lord Willis of Knaresborough
Lord Jenkin of Roding	Baroness Sharp of Guildford	Lord Winston
(retired 6.1.15)	Lord Sheldon	

House of Commons

Adam Afriyie	Oliver Colvile	Rt Hon Caroline Flint
Ian Austin	Michael Connarty	Paul Flynn
Bob Blackman	Nic Dakin	George Freeman
Tom Blenkinsop	David Davies	Mark Garnier
Sir Peter Bottomley	The Rt Hon David Davis	Mrs Helen Goodman
Andrew Bridgen	Nigel Evans	Robert Goodwill
Dr Therese Coffey	Robert Ffello	Stephen Hammond

Charles Hendry
Julie Hilling
Kelvin Hopkins
Dr Julian Huppert
Hon Bernard Jenkin
David Jones
Andrew Love
Ms Ann McKechin
Esther McVey
Andrew Miller

Austin Mitchell
Stephen Mosley
David Mowat
Brooks Newmark
Chi Onwurah
Rt Hon Sir Richard Ottaway
Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo
Sir James Paice
Alok Sharma
Alec Shelbrooke

Graham Stringer
Ian Swales
Mike Thornton
Ed Vaizey
Ben Wallace
Tom Watson
Stephen Williams
Dr Sarah Wollaston

Members of the European Parliament

Stuart Agnew
Richard Ashworth

Ashley Fox
Julie Girling

Timothy Kirkhope
Ms Jean Lambert

Hereditary Peers

Lord Birdwood
Earl of Cranbrook
Lord Hacking

Lord Ironside
Lord Kirkwood
Lord Monkswell

Lord Renwick
Viscount Weir

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.

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

Government Chief Scientific Adviser (Professor Sir Mark Walport FRS)
Director-General for Knowledge and Innovation (Sir John O'Reilly – retired 2015)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Defence (Professor Vernon Gibson FRS)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Energy and Climate Change (Professor John Loughhead OBE)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Professor Ian Boyd FRSE)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Health (Professor Dame Sally Davies DBE)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Home Office (Professor Bernard Silverman)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Transport (Professor Rod Smith)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Communities and Local Government
Chief Scientific Adviser, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Professor Robin Grimes)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Professor John Perkins CBE FREng – retired 2015)
Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Amanda Dickens)
Chief Scientific Adviser, Food Standards Agency, Professor Guy Poppy

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.

Arthur Butler	Professor H Peter Jost	Ian Taylor
Tam Dalyell	Dr Douglas Naysmith	Dr Desmond Turner
Dr Brian Iddon	Richard Page	Dr Peter Warren
Dr Tom Inch	Reg Sell	
Dr Ian Gibson	Lord Spicer of Cropthorne	

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.

Sir Frederick Crawford	Dr Robert Kirby-Harris	Sir William Stewart
Dr John Dudeney	Ian Morris	Dr Tony Whitehead
Professor Michael Elves	Professor Robert Pickard	Dr Keith Winters
Sir John Kingman	Professor Jane Plant	Dr Richard Worswick

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.

AIRTO	Professor Richard Brook OBE FREng
Alzheimer's Research UK	Dr Matt Norton
Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine	Joe O'Meara

Scientific and Technical Organisations (continued)

Association for Science Education
 Association of Consulting Scientists
 Association of Management &
 Professional Staffs
 The Babraham Institute
 Biochemical Society
 Biotechnology and Biological Sciences
 Research Council
 BMT Ltd
 British Antarctic Survey
 British Council
 British Ecological Society
 British Fluid Power Association
 British Geological Survey
 British and Irish Association of Zoos
 and Aquariums
 The British Institute of Radiology
 British Measurement & Testing Assn
 British Nutrition Foundation
 British Pharmacological Society
 British Psychological Society
 British Society for Antimicrobial
 Chemotherapy
 British Society for Immunology
 British Society of Soil Science
 British Trust for Ornithology
 British Veterinary Association
 CABI
 Campden BRI
 Cavendish Laboratory
 Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys
 Chemring Technology Solutions Ltd
 Clifton Scientific Trust
 Comino Foundation
 Dstl
 Economic and Social Research Council
 Energy Institute
 Engineering & Physical Sciences Research
 Council
 Engineering Professors' Council
 EngineeringUK
 Fera
 Forest Research
 Foundation for Science and Technology
 Foundation for Science, Technology and
 Civilization
 GAIN

Shaun Reason
 The Chairman, Dr Chris Chatfield
 Tony Harding, Marijke Smith

 Professor Michael Wakelam
 Dr Catherine Ball
 Professor Jackie Hunter

 Peter French
 Professor Jane Francis
 Dr Claire McNulty, Dr Yasemin Koc
 Dr Dan Osborn, Ceri Margerison
 Chris Buxton
 Professor John Ludden
 Dr Kirsten Pullen

 Ms Carole Cross
 Peter Russell
 Professor Judy Buttriss
 Katharine Richardson
 Mike Laffan, Tanja Siggs
 Mrs Tracey Guise

 Professor Adrian Hayday, Ms Jo Revill
 Dr Kathryn Allton, Ian Brown
 Dr Andy Clements
 Carl Padgett
 Dr Joan Kelley
 Dr Steven Walker
 The Secretary
 Dr Julian M Potter, R P Jackson, T W Roberts
 Stephen Grinham
 Dr Eric Albone
 John Slater
 Jonathan Lyle
 Professor Jane Elliott, Ms Susie Watts
 Mrs Louise Kingham, Sarah Beacock
 Atti Emecz, Jenny Aranha

 Susan Kay
 Paul Jackson
 Dr Philip Newton
 Dr P H Freer-Smith
 Dr Dougal J Goodman
 Professor Salim T S Al-Hassan,
 Dr Anne-Maria Brennan
 Ms Caroline Morrice

Scientific and Technical Organisations (continued)

GAMBICA Association
The Genetics Society
The Geological Society
The Ground Forum

Hazards Forum
Higher Education Funding Council for
England

Institute of Acoustics
Institute of Biomedical Science
Institute of Corrosion
Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors
Institute of Food Research
Institute of Food Science and Technology
The Institute of Marine Engineering,
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 Designers
Institution of Engineering and Technology

Institution of Mechanical Engineers
John Innes Centre
Licensing Executives Society
Linnean Society of London
Lloyd's Register Foundation
London Mathematical Society
Marine Biological Association
Materials UK
Medical Research Council
Met Office
Mineralogical Society
Nesta
National Oceanography Centre, Southampton
National Physical Laboratory
Natural Environment Research Council

Natural History Museum
New Engineering Foundation

Dr Graeme Philp
Ms Dominique Kleyn
Edmund Nickless
Rodney Chartres, Keith Gabriel,
Ms Dianne Jennings
Brian Neale
Professor Madeleine Atkins CBE

Allan Chesney
N S Kirk, Ms Jill Rodney
Dr Douglas Mills
Steve Barraclough, David O'Neill
Professor Keith Waldron
Jon Poole
Dr Bev MacKenzie

Dr B A Rickinson, Dr G J M Woodrow
David Youdan, Professor John R Whiteman
David Kent, Peter Martindale
Dr Peter Farr
Professor Paul Hardaker, Alex Connor
Dr Stephen Keevil, Dr David Brettle,
Dr Anna Barnes
Dr David Brown, Andrew Furlong,
Miles Seaman
Andrew Crudgington, Joanna Gonet
Mrs Elizabeth Meyrick
Ms Alison Carr, Paul Davies, Darren Gladwin,
FL Pitt
Stephen Tetlow
Dr Dee Rawsthorne
RMC Nott, Ms Christi Mitchell
Dr Elizabeth Rollinson
Ms Eileen Kinghan
Fiona Nixon, Dr John Johnston
Professor Colin Brownlee, Dr Matthew Frost
Professor Colin Seabrook MBE
Sophie Broster-James
John Harmer, Dr Matt Huddleston
Kevin Murphy
Simon Morrison
Professor Edward Hill
Dr Kamal Hossain, Professor John Pethica
Professor Duncan Wingham, Parliamentary
Liaison Officer
Sir Michael Dixon
Professor Sa'ad Medhat

Scientific and Technical Organisations (continued)

Nuffield Council on Bioethics
Operational Research Society
The Physiological Society
Plymouth Marine Laboratory
Prospect
Public Health England

Rothamsted Research
Royal Academy of Engineering

Royal Aeronautical Society
Royal Astronomical Society
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Royal College of Physicians
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Royal Institute of Navigation
The Royal Institution
Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Royal Society

The Royal Society of Chemistry
The Royal Society of Edinburgh
Royal Statistical Society
SCI
The Science Council
Science & Technology Facilities Council
Science Museum
Society for Applied Microbiology
Society for Endocrinology
Society for General Microbiology
Society for Underwater Technology
Society of Biology
Society of Cosmetic Scientists
Society of Dyers and Colourists
Society of Operations Engineers
STEMNET
TWI Ltd
UK Deans of Science
Understanding Animal Research
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
The Wellcome Trust
The Worshipful Company of Engineers

Hugh Whittall, Catherine Joynson
Gavin Blackett, Dr Roger Forder
Dr Philip Wright
Professor Stephen de Mora
Sue Ferns
Dr David Heymann,
Professor Virginia Murray
Stephen James
Philip Greenish, Dr A M Neville,
Professor Michael Wood, Barry Haseltine,
Dr William 'Stan' Jones
Beth Hargreaves
Pamela Mortimer, Professor Andy Fabian
Professor Monique Simmonds
Ms Louisa Wright
The President, Professor Sheila Crispin
Peter Chapman-Andrews
Dr Gail Cardew
The President, Ms Jayne Lawrence
Dr Julie Maxton, Rebecca Purvis,
Dr Stuart Taylor
Dr Robert Parker, Vicki Butler
Sir John Arbuthnott, Dr William Duncan
Hetan Shah, Dr Christl Donnelly

Ms Diana Garnham
Professor John Womersley, Ms Natalie Bealing
Ian Blatchford
Professor Mark Fielder, Dr Lucy Harper
Dr Kate Bowman, Dr Debbie Willis
Dr Peter Cotgreave, Dariel Burdass
Gwyn Griffiths, Peter Metcalf, David Liddle
Dr Mark Downs, Dr Stephen Benn
The President
Dr Graham Clayton
Peter Walsh
Ms Kirsten Bodley, Claire Scotter
Christoph Wiesner, John Wintle
Professor Ian Haines
Ms Wendy Jarrett
Dr Robert Hubrecht
Ms Nicola Perrin
Wing Commander Tony Willenbruch

Commercial Members

The Council may also elect to The Committee up to a maximum of 100 Commercial Members, such maximum being subject to modification at any subsequent Annual General Meeting. Such members shall be Companies registered in the UK or UK nationalised Undertakings or organisations representing a sector of industry. In electing a Commercial Member, the Council shall have regard to the desirability of ensuring that the 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.

Abbeyvet Export LLP
AGC Chemicals Europe Ltd
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry

Autonnic Research Ltd
Azotic Technologies Ltd
BASF Plc
BP plc
British In Vitro Diagnostics Association
Chemical Industries Association
R S Clare & Co Ltd
The Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association Ltd

Eli Lilly & Company Limited
Energy Technologies Institute
First Group PLC
Food and Drink Federation
Geomatrix Earth Science Ltd
Glass and Glazing Federation
Industry Capital Ltd
Johnson Matthey Plc
LGC Ltd
L'Oreal UK Ltd
Mylnefield Research Services
Network Rail
Novolytics Limited
OptiRisk Systems
Pfizer Limited

PHARMAQ Ltd
Principle Healthcare International
Ricardo Plc
Risk Solutions
Rolls-Royce
S&C Electric Europe Ltd
Sheffield Forgemasters International
Siemens Plc
Society of Maritime Industries
Trident Sensors Ltd

Dr Iain MacKellar
Tony E Wade
Ms Sarah Jones

Dr Chris Shelton
Dr David Dent
Dr Geoff Mackey, Andrew Mayer
Dr Angela Strank
Ms Doris-Ann Williams
Simon Marsh
Roy Coldwell, Ian Meadows
Dr Christopher Flower, Dr Emma Meredith

Dr David Bowman
Peter Dodd
Mac Andrade
Ms Emma Thomas
Tom Nicols
Nigel Rees
Isaac Livne
Ms Sally Jones, Ms Ellie Davison
Dr Derek Craston
Katriona Methven, Katy Gandon
Dr Nigel W Kerby
Jane Simpson
John Hardcastle
Professor Gautram Mitra
Annette Doherty, Dr Devyn Smith,
Alan Maine, Dr Adam Heathfield
Dr Benjamin P North
Miss Clare Campbell
Mark Garrett
Dr Helen Wilkinson
Helen Kennett
Ms Isobel Evans
Dr Martin G Kearney
Professor Paul Beasley
Paul Ridout, John Murray
Dr W R Simpson

Industrial Members (continued)

Varley Systems Engineering Limited
Vitabiotics Limited
Wiley
Yakult UK Ltd

David Slater
Robert Taylor
Robert Campbell
Dr Linda Thomas

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.

Anglia Ruskin University
University of Bath

University of Birmingham
University of Bolton
Bournemouth University
University of Brighton
University of Bristol
Brunel University
Cardiff Metropolitan University
City University London
Cranfield University

University of Derby
University of Dundee
University of East Anglia
University of Edinburgh
University of Essex
University of Exeter
University of Gloucestershire
University of Greenwich
Harper Adams University College
University of Hertfordshire
University of Huddersfield
University of Hull
Imperial College London
Keele University
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

Professor M Thorne
Professor Dame Glynis Breakwell,
Professor Fred Eastham
Richard Williams
Professor Elias Siores
Professor John Vinney
Professor Andrew Lloyd
Professor Eric Thomas
Professor Julia Buckingham
Professor Antony J Chapman
Professor Paul Curran
Professor Sir Peter Gregson,
Professor Clifford Friend
Professor Margaret Bruce
Professor Stephen Decent
Professor Phil Gilmartin
Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea
Dr Robert Singh
Professor Sir Steve Smith
Professor Adam Hart
Dr Liz Bacon
Dr David Llewellyn
Professor Quintin McKellar
Dr Tracy Turner
Dr Guy Hembury
John Neilson
Professor Patrick Bailey
Chris Mottershead
Professor Paul Boyle
Sir Howard Newby
Professor Baron Peter Piot
Professor Rao Bhamidimarri
Professor Chris Linton
Dr John Roberts

Universities (continued)

Newcastle University
State University of New York
University of Northampton
University of Nottingham
The Open University

Queen Mary, University of London
University of Reading

Royal Holloway, University of London
University of Salford
The University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of Strathclyde
University of Surrey
University College London

Warwick University
University of Wolverhampton

Professor Nick Wright
Professor Alexander Orlov
Professor Nick Petford
Professor Sir David Greenaway
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)
Professor Jeremy Kilburn
Sir David Bell,
Professor Derek J Clements-Croome
Professor Paul Hogg
Professor Nigel Mellors
Professor Anthony Ryan
Gavin Costigan
Professor Sir Jim McDonald
Professor Michael Kearney
Professor Michael Arthur,
Professor K M Spyer,
Dr Francesca Medda,
Professor David Walker
Professor Tim Jones
Professor Geoff Layer,
Professor Nduka Ekere,
Professor Derek Walton

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.

Penningtons Manches LLP
Rainbow Seed Fund

Christopher Shelley
Dr Andrew Muir

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held at 5pm on Tuesday 17th June 2014 in Committee Room 8, House of Commons.

Election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Advisory Panel for 2014

Andrew Miller (Chairman) commented that working with Patrick Jenkin, who had decided to step down from the Presidency, had been a great pleasure. He thanked him on behalf of everyone in the room and in the science community for the work he had put in over very many years, leading to better engagement between science and engineering and the two Houses of Parliament.

Lord Jenkin commented that it had been a great pleasure to be President and expressed his thanks to John Slater and other volunteers, who had soon had the committee functioning effectively after the 2010 election when both members of staff had been ill. He also thanked Dr Peter Jost, “a tower of strength to the Committee behind the scenes”, who had reminded the officers that they should follow up Lord Oxburgh’s report about the role of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, the difficulties we face and the changes we might undertake. He added that Lord Oxburgh was keen that it should be followed up.

Lord Jenkin proposed the election of Lord Oxburgh to succeed him as President – seconded by Dr John Dudeney and approved by the meeting. He also proposed that Stephen Metcalfe MP be elected a second Deputy Chairman – seconded by Dr Stephen Benn and approved by the meeting.

He then proposed the re-election of all other office-holders, namely:

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:	Mr Paul Ridout, Mr Philip Greenish CBE, Mr John Slater Dr Stephen Benn, Mr Atti Emecz, Professor Ian Haines Dr Guy Hembury, Professor Colin Seabrook MBE
Advisory Panel:	Dr Stuart Taylor, Mr David Youdan, Dr David Dent

The re-election of all remaining office-holders was seconded by Dr Dougal Goodman and approved by the meeting.

Amendments to the Constitution

Andrew Miller MP explained that the majority of the amendments were proposed in order to comply with the changes to the rules for All-Party Groups recommended by the Standards Committee and recently approved by the House of Commons. The status of the P&SC had to change from an Associate Parliamentary Group to an All-Party Parliamentary Group; the main difference between the two being that only Members of either House of Parliament were able to vote.

He stressed that the change of status would make no difference to the way in which the P&SC operated; the Parliamentary officers would continue to discuss matters with and be advised by the scientific membership.

The proposed amendments included others to change the name of the Industrial Members category to Commercial Members, which was more appropriate. There were also three proposed amendments designed simply to improve the wording. It was agreed that all the amendments should be taken together, and they were all approved by the meeting. A copy of the revised Constitution can be found at www.scienceinparliament.org.uk/information/constitution/.

To Receive the Annual Report for 2013

Lord Jenkin commented on two events: the excellent speech given by Sir Mark Walport at the Annual Lunch and the huge success of SET for Britain, a competition involving a large number of young researchers showing their work to their constituency MPs and others at Westminster.

The Chairman commented that the tone of the annual report was more confident than in previous years. He thanked those in the room who had contributed to the improvement. The programme had been strong and some meetings had attracted more MPs and Peers. Following Peter Jost's nudging Lord Oxburgh's report would be followed up.

The meeting agreed to receive the 2013 Annual Report.

To Receive the Financial Statement for 2013 Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2014

In the absence of the Treasurer, Lord Willis of Knaresborough, Lord Jenkin proposed that the meeting receive the Financial Statement for 2013, which showed a surplus of £11,174. The proposal was seconded by Professor Michael Elves and approved by the meeting.

He then moved on to the Estimates for Income and Expenditure for 2014, inviting comments from Alan Malcolm, who said that the aim was to make a surplus which would be less than in 2013. Dr Peter Jost seconded the proposal to accept the Estimates for 2014 which were approved by the meeting.

Subscription Rates for 2015

It was agreed that Subscription Rates for 2015 would remain at the same level as they had been since January 2012.

Report from the Council

A written report from the Council had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that much hard work had been done by several people to promote membership of the Committee and encourage organisations to join.

In reply to a question from Dr Eric Albone about the influence of meetings on Parliamentarians' awareness of scientific issues, Mr Miller mentioned three meetings on subjects which had proved very topical: Ash Tree Dieback in which there had been much interest; Badgers – he had been interested to see that several similar meetings had been held; and Natural Capital, which had become much more topical since the P&SC meeting in February.

Summary of Written Report from Council

Membership

The Viscount Ridley and Mike Thornton MP had joined the Committee.

During 2013 the Council had been pleased to welcome as new members 11 Scientific and Technical Organisations, seven Industrial members and seven Universities.

Recruitment had continued successfully in 2014, and they had welcomed the following:

Scientific and Technical Organisations: Chemring Technology Solutions Ltd; Lloyd's Register Foundation; Society for Underwater Technology.

Industrial Members: The Cosmetic, Toiletry and Perfumery Association Ltd; De La Rue International Ltd; First Group PLC; Network Rail; Novolytics Limited; OptiRisk Systems; Risk Solutions; S&C Electric Europe Ltd; Vitabiotics Limited.

The University of Huddersfield

Rainbow Seed Fund had joined as an Associate member.

During 2013, 17 members (8 Scientific and Technical Organisations, 6 Industrial members and 3 Universities), and in 2014 fourteen members (5 Scientific and Technical Organisations, 4 Industrial members, 4 Universities and an Associate Member) had decided not to renew.

The Council would welcome assistance from the membership with the recruitment of new members.

Programme

The Committee's future programme of meetings would include:

Tuesday 15th July	A Levels
Tuesday 22nd October	National Infrastructure
Tuesday 18th November	Energy Storage
Tuesday 9th December	Dementia

Science in Parliament

The Summer issue of *Science in Parliament* would be published before the start of the summer recess on 22nd July.

The Editorial board is very grateful to all those who support *Science in Parliament* by sponsoring covers and taking entries in the Directory, and to those who contribute articles and write up their talks for publication. Any member organisation which might be interested in celebrating a significant anniversary or a particular achievement by taking a cover in a future issue of the journal should get in touch with the secretariat.

There is also the possibility for member organisations to publish *Science in Parliament* on their websites for their members at an annual fee of £50.

SET for Britain

SET for Britain, the annual poster competition and exhibition for early-stage researchers, held on 17th March 2014, had attracted over 70 Parliamentarians during the course of the day. The exhibition was divided into three separate sessions and for the first time Mathematics posters had been included. In all 210 posters had been on display during the day, selected from a field of over 500 high quality entries.

The 2015 SET for Britain event would take place on Monday 9th March.

75th Anniversary

Two special projects were planned to celebrate the 75 Anniversary of the establishment of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee in November 1939. The Prime Minister had been invited (but had not yet accepted) to be Guest of Honour at the Annual Lunch. An updated version of the History of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee was under consideration.



Report from Chairman

Andrew Miller MP

I feel somewhat illegitimate in penning this, since at the time of writing I will not have been an MP for more than five weeks. By the time you read this I hope my successors in Ellesmere Port, the P&SC, and the Select Committee will all be in place

Of course I also feel a certain tristesse in contributing my last Report as Chair, but 2014 was a good year.

We started the year with a Discussion Meeting on Badgers – no prizes for originality. However we achieved a balance of opinions across a wide spectrum – a farmer, an epidemiologist and a zoologist were our presenters.

Natural Capital has become a buzz word recently. We undervalue the contribution which the environment makes to our health, wealth and happiness. Our February meeting examined this.

March is always busy with SET for Britain as well as the Symposium (Marine Science) which we organise on behalf of BIS as part of National Science and Engineering Week. It was satisfying to see Mathematics included for the first time as part of SET.

“Fracking” in April was, like Badgers, an obvious topic and both of these will be on the agenda for the new Parliament.

A full list appears elsewhere in this Report. Suffice it to say how grateful I am to all those who have contributed. It stimulates thoughts about topics and witnesses for the Select Committee, which I have also chaired.

I have always enjoyed SET for Britain for two reasons. It amazes me to see the quality of the science, and it is a joy to experience the enthusiasm of the young presenters. Additionally, it is more successful than any other event in exposing MPs to the pursuits of their constituents and I urge newly elected members to find out more. We are now in discussion with our overseas embassies about exporting the model to other countries. Watch this space.

Our staff had a busy year topped by the activities in November.

On the 4th, we had a morning briefing on Ebola.

On 11th, we threw a reception in Buckingham Palace, hosted by The Duke of Edinburgh, and on 26th, we welcomed the Rt Hon David Cameron as our guest at the Annual Lunch.

This is what is known in University circles as “impact”.

It was also pleasing to see the launch of the new website, and admire the visual improvement in *Science in Parliament* through the use of colour throughout.

We also contributed to events run by others. Parliamentary Links Day, Voice of the Future, Royal Society Pairing, Parliamentary Affairs Committee are all included in our Agenda.

What thoughts/advice would I pass on to my successor?

One of my colleagues described introducing science to MPs as resembling pushing water up a hill. I think this is unfair. MPs are swamped with information and special pleading. People seeking to communicate with politicians need to understand the pressures on MPs. The P&SC tries to help improve the flow of information from the science community but there is much more to be accomplished.

Finally, I have many to thank for their contribution to making the job of Chair so interesting and enjoyable. The speakers and authors come first. I have been supported by many loyal Officers who have helped to share the burden. Our conscientious staff have allowed me to turn up and take off, whether at committee meetings or discussions.

I wish the P&SC every success during this Parliament and for the future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Andrew Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. There is a small horizontal line under the name.

Addresses and Discussions 2014

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

21st January 2014
Report in SiP Whitsun issue 2014

Badgers

Adam Quinney, Vice President, NFU

The NFU is anti-TB and not anti-badger. The usual mechanism for infection is via the badger latrines; it can be reduced by raising the height of cattle troughs. The best current badger vaccine has to be injected, which is difficult. The NFU would like an effective vaccine for cattle but, due to the range of cattle parts exported for food, it would be difficult to prove that there was no risk to human health. TB has been slowed down but not stopped.

Professor Christl Donnelly, Professor of Statistical Epidemiology, Imperial College London

In 2013 initial culls of badgers were undertaken in two pilot areas in Gloucestershire and Somerset. Substantially fewer than the target of 70% of the badger population were removed in both areas. The Government has announced that annual culling would resume in the pilot areas and time would tell whether subsequent culls in the pilot area would be more effective than the initial culls. If they were not, it was possible that herds within those areas would experience greater TB risks.

Professor Rosie Woodroffe, Institute of Zoology

Disease spreads by infected animals mixing with susceptible animals, some of which then become infected. New born animals in the wild are susceptible but can become immune either through vaccination or by recovering after becoming infected. For vaccination programmes to be effective all young badgers need to be vaccinated every year; through time this would eradicate the disease as the risk of infection would be reduced each year.

25th February 2014
Report in SiP Whitsun issue 2014

How do we Value our Natural Capital?

Julian Harlow, Natural Capital Committee Secretariat, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Professor Rosemary Hails MBE, Centre for Hydrology and Ecology; a member of the Natural Capital Committee

Valuing changes in natural capital can help stop its decline – but only if we do it properly. Over the next year, the Natural Capital Committee, an independent advisory committee set up by the Government to advise on how society can take

better account of the value of nature and ensure this value fully informs decision-making, will develop its advice further about how to prioritise action to conserve and enhance our natural assets.

Professor Brett Day, University of East Anglia

Interdisciplinary teams of economists and natural scientists are now working together using state-of-the-art models and computing methods to provide decision makers with a solid evidence base upon which to make policy decisions about the natural environment.

17th March 2014

More information can be found at www.setforbritain.org.uk

SET for Britain Poster Exhibition and Competition

The 2014 SET for Britain awards took place in the House of Commons Marquee on Monday 17th March 2014, hosted by Andrew Miller MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee. The day was divided into three separate exhibitions, providing early-stage researchers with an opportunity to show to Parliamentarians the first-class research being undertaken in British universities and research institutions.

The three exhibitions included posters on Engineering, Mathematical Sciences, Biological and Biomedical Sciences, Physics and Chemistry. Medals and cash prizes were awarded in each discipline.

20th March 2014

Report in SiP Whitsun issue 2014

National Science and Engineering Week Seminar

Marine Science

Dr Brian Bett, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton

Deep Sea Marine Biodiversity: In about 250 years of taxonomic endeavour, we have described about 12% of the animal species currently thought to exist on Earth. In our seas only 8% of the animal species thought to exist have been described; in remote sea areas that number will be appreciably lower, approximately 0% for the smaller animals. There are only a few thousand professional taxonomists in the world, each describing a few new species each year.

Professor Manuel Barange, Plymouth Marine Laboratory

The Role of the Ocean in Securing Sustainable Food for 9 Billion People: Climate change will affect marine ecosystems and their resources by changing their production patterns. A small growth in potential fish production is achievable, but the impacts of the production changes will not be consistent across regions and

countries. Successful implementation of strategies for sustainable harvesting, industrial development and trade efficiencies could prevent shortages in fish supply.

Dr Stefan Kapusniak, Mining Business Manager, Soil Machine Dynamics

Mining the Sea Bed: As reserves and grades are depleted on land and demand grows offshore mineral extraction rates will increase. Beaches have been mined for minerals such as titanium; mining for diamonds and gold is taking place in the surf-zone; shallow deposits are being mined off some coasts and dredging is taking place at a variety of depths. Some of these techniques may achieve extraction of softer material at depths of roughly 400m. With harder rocks and increasing depths, different technology is required, already available from the oil and gas and subsea trenching industries. At greater depths the focus is currently on polymetallic sulphides, rare-earth muds, ferro-manganese crusts (on sea-mounts) and polymetallic nodules (in abyssal plains).

Dr Paul Bell, National Oceanography Centre, Liverpool

Marine Renewables: The UK is home to plentiful tidal energy resources, and large areas of ocean exposed to the full force of Atlantic waves. This wealth of natural resources has stimulated the development of dozens of designs for marine energy harvesting devices. The work on the effects of marine renewable energy devices on the environment is driving innovation in environmental technologies to develop new tools and methods acceptable to both industry and regulators. Ultimately this will allow society to move towards low-carbon electricity.

Dr Carol Turley, Plymouth Marine Laboratory

Ocean Acidification: The Silent Storm: The silent storm, which will last for 10,000's of years, cover three quarters of Earth's surface and impact us all, is called ocean acidification. Although our normal senses cannot detect it, scientists and their sensors can measure it accurately at long term stations in the ocean. These sensors show a year on year change in the chemistry of the ocean, affecting the organisms, including humans, that live in and depend on the ocean for their food and livelihood. The cause is global – carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced from fossil fuel combustion, emitted to the atmosphere. Half of emitted CO₂ remains in atmosphere (causing climate change) and the remainder is absorbed nearly equally by ocean and land. The ocean absorbs 24 million tons of CO₂ every day.

Dr Kevin Horsburgh, National Oceanography Centre, Liverpool

Natural Hazards and Sea Level Rise: The projected rise in globally averaged sea level for the year 2100 is 0.29-0.82m and rise around the UK has been consistent with global averages. Even with no change to the storm climate of northern Europe the rise in mean sea level will increase the frequency of extreme water levels; any coastal defence (such as a sea wall) will, on average, be exceeded more often. This will place greater demands on flood warning systems to deliver more accurate forecasts with longer lead times, in order to protect lives and property. Continuing investment in flood warning mechanisms and coastal defences would be wise.

Hydraulic Fracturing

Professor Richard Davies BSc PhD FGS, Dean of Knowledge Exchange and Impact, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Durham

Shale gas has attracted much controversy. As many aspects of its discovery and exploitation have provoked public concerns, it is crucial that scientific research is conducted into these topics. The ReFINE (Researching Fracking In Europe) project, an independent research consortium led by Durham Energy Institute, focuses on the risks associated with shale gas and oil exploration and exploitation. The first three peer-reviewed studies by the ReFINE team have examined the vertical distance that hydraulic fractures can propagate, the likelihood and magnitude of earthquakes caused by fracking, and the long-term integrity of shale gas wells. ReFINE studies are examining the risk of subsidence in shale gas sites, methane leakage, and the quantity of radioactive materials occurring in fluids that flow back to the surface after fracking.

Huw Clarke, Senior Geoscientist, Cuadrilla Resources Ltd

The benefits from shale gas include employment, taxes, lower gas prices for a greener natural gas, and, most importantly, security of supply. The challenge lies not in the extraction of the gas or the environmental management, but in persuading the communities in which we work that the industry can be trusted.

From opinion polls conducted in Lancashire by Cuadrilla, we have found that most people have open minds when it comes to shale gas exploration. It is crucial to provide local communities with as much information as possible concerning our plans, so they can make decisions on facts instead of rumours.

Did We Realise our Potential? Celebrating 20 years of the mission led Research Councils

Professor David Lane, Director, Ocean Systems Laboratory, Heriot-Watt University

We have made great strides. The UK continues to punch above its weight in scientific output, citations and international collaboration, second only to the US, partly thanks to ring-fenced Government funding and FEC on grants. But we haven't yet realised our potential. Where are our Googles, Facebooks, Apples and Amazons? And why are there so few with a research and innovation background in this weekend's *Sunday Times* Rich List? Government and its agencies have created a stimulating and richly supported environment to promote UK invention and innovation. Ultimately, whether or not the Research Councils and the TSB realise their potential, is actually up to Us – the recipients of their support.

Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt FREng, Web and Internet Science Research Group, Faculty of Physical Sciences and Engineering, University of Southampton

Twenty years on from the ROPA report we can say that UK research is world class. One recent BIS 2013 report shows that the UK with just 0.9% global population and 3.2% of research expenditure is responsible for 4.1% of the world's researchers, 9.5% of downloads and 15.9% of the world's most highly-cited articles. The ubiquity of data about STEM on the Web enables us to be much more precise about the impact of the investments the Research Councils make. The mission driven characterisation of our Research Councils has enabled a rational structure for funding research to emerge. This has helped promote collaboration and coordination.

Professor Dek Woolfson, School of Chemistry, Bristol University

Synthetic biology is an emerging field that aims to make the engineering of biology easier, more reliable and more predictable. It combines understanding and methods from the biological and physical sciences with engineering principles and approaches. If it takes root, synthetic biology will have an impact on basic research in the biological sciences and its exploitation in the biotech, pharma and agrichem sectors. Through coordinated efforts from government, the Research Councils, industry and the academic research community, the UK has built an extremely strong base for synthetic-biology research. The challenges are to develop this base to deliver high-quality basic science, leading to applications underpinning UK SMEs and industry.

15th July 2014

Report in SiP Autumn 2014

A Levels – are they Fit for Purpose?

Dr Michelle Meadows, Director of Research and Evaluation, Ofqual

A Levels have three primary purposes: to define and assess the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary for undergraduate study; to provide an internationally comparable post-16 academic course of study; and to permit universities to identify learners' level of attainment. They also have two secondary purposes: to provide a basis for school and college accountability measures; and to provide a benchmark of academic ability for employers.

Recent changes have been controversial, in particular, the separate endorsement of practical skills. For science A Levels to be fit for purpose they must support good teaching and learning practical skills.

Professor Ian Haines, Executive Secretary, UK Deans of Science

Practical skills are as integral to science as they are to art and design.

Ten years after the Tomlinson report, which was overwhelmingly supported by the STEM community, proposed a broader 14 to 19 curriculum, politicians and Ofqual

are not facing the fact that A levels have had their day. How long do we have to wait to have an independent STEM Education Authority (with representation from the major scientific and educational bodies, employers groups, teachers, trades unions, etc) with a remit to design, develop, introduce and oversee a more appropriate education system for the UK?

Dr Sarah Main, Director, Campaign for Science and Engineering

Practicals are essential to A level sciences. The industrial members of CaSE want to be able to recruit people with practical skills across a broad range of jobs: from technical, to graduate and postgraduate levels. It is so difficult to recruit people with the correct skills that they recruit from overseas.

A levels are not everything. There is a move to ensure students have a breadth of education after the age of 16; and there are alternative paths to A levels. The boundaries between further education, higher education and life-long learning are increasingly blurred.

21st October 2014
Report in SiP Spring 2015

Does the UK have the Infrastructure it Needs?

Nick Baveystock, Director General, Institution of Civil Engineers

Professor Brian Collins, Professor of Engineering Policy, UCL

Nationally significant infrastructure projects are political and subject to a decision making process, with public and parliamentary involvement. This will become increasingly difficult as we are faced with challenges such as climate change, which will necessitate choices over the resilience of infrastructure, and population growth, which will place greater demand on our vital networks.

Policymakers now need to ensure that the improved policy climate will translate into tangible impacts on infrastructure.

4th November 2014
Report in SiP Spring 2015

Ebola Virus – an Update

Panel Discussion:

Professor Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical Officer, England

Professor John Edmunds, Dean of Faculty, Epidemiology and Population Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Dr Christine McCartney, Director of Microbiology, Public Health England

Dr Andrew Simpson, Public Health England

Dr Huw Taylor, Professor of Microbial Ecology, University of Brighton

Ebola can only be caught by contact with bodily fluids, especially blood. The virus is not airborne and will not mutate.

The UK's contribution includes health care workers and a huge military contribution, building hospitals and isolation units. The UK Public Health Laboratory Service has two high category facilities to enable research to be undertaken.

Three potential vaccines are in development and testing.

Defence against Ebola requires soap, water and chlorine.

The system for detecting infected travellers entering the country would deal with those becoming ill on the plane; unless showing symptoms they would not be infectious.

11th November 2014
Report in SiP Spring 2015

75th Anniversary Reception at Buckingham Palace

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh hosted a Reception at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

18th November 2014
Report in SiP Spring 2015

Energy Storage

Dr Jonathan Radcliffe, Centre for Low Carbon Futures, University of Birmingham

In 2012, energy storage was selected as one of the Government's 'Eight Great Technologies'. Excellence in some of the underlying science and engineering behind energy storage technologies has meant the UK has several companies developing new technologies that could be exported into other markets. However, there is a risk that its potential will not be promoted and that generation from gas or coal is likely to crowd out the UK market in the short term.

Professor Toby Peters, Dearman Engine Company

Energy storage has long been recognised as vital to a decarbonised and secure electricity grid and low carbon transport, but conventional technologies – batteries, pumped storage, compressed air – all have their drawbacks. The idea of storing energy as cold and power, in the form of liquid air or nitrogen, is rapidly gaining support. This would allow 'wrong time' energy and waste cold to be recycled into zero-emission peak power, cooling and even transport fuel. Liquid air technologies now being developed in Britain would help balance intermittent renewable generation, reduce emissions and cost, and could eventually form a joined-up 'Cold Economy'.

Annual Lunch

The Rt Hon David Cameron MP, Prime Minister

Science is essential to our future. Keep doing what you are doing and help us win the battle in arguing for scientific advance. Politicians cannot do it alone. We need scientists, universities, professors, researchers to step up to the plate and make the argument too – otherwise the argument on nuclear, on GM, on unconventional gas, on embryology will all go the wrong way.

9th December 2014
Report in SiP Spring 2015

Dementia

Professor Alistair Burns, University of Manchester

Three things are important in dementia: diagnosis, treatment and prevention. The symptoms of dementia vary. Symptoms of Alzheimer's disease usually start very gradually with loss of memory, getting worse over a period of months; vascular dementia symptoms, which may be more related to inabilities to perform everyday tasks, develop much more suddenly; the symptoms of Lewy body disease tend to develop quickly and can include episodes of confusion and symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

There is no specific drug treatment for vascular dementia but the following will help: controlling high blood pressure and high cholesterol; treating diabetes; losing excess weight; taking more exercise and stopping smoking. There are four drugs available for Alzheimer's disease. There is evidence to suggest that reducing vascular risk factors will reduce the rate of Alzheimer's disease as well as vascular dementia.

Dr Simon Ridley, Head of Research, Alzheimer's Research UK

Dementia research is seen as small, underfunded and unattractive. Recently there has been a very high failure rate of potential drugs, and the risk/reward ratio is often deemed too high, despite the huge potential should a treatment be even moderately efficacious. The Prime Minister's Challenge on dementia has brought additional research funding. The UK used its recent G8 presidency to raise the international profile of dementia research, culminating in a pledge to find a cure or 'disease-modifying' treatment by 2020. The UK is well placed to play its part.

Professor Martin Knapp, London School of Economics

Dementia is a major, world-wide challenge for health and care systems, and for societies more generally. Without an affordable cure, those challenges and the costs of dementia will increase considerably. If the objectives are to achieve better health and quality of life for people with dementia, and to make the best use of resources, we need a three-pronged strategy to reduce risk, improve care and find a cure.

Cover photograph of statue of Winston Churchill in Parliament Square, 2014

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Science in Parliament

The Journal of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

Science in Parliament has two main objectives:

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- To keep Members of both Houses of Parliament abreast of developments in science and engineering.

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