

Summary Annual Review

Campaign for
Science &
Engineering
in the UK



A digest of CaSE's activities over a year

July 2005 to June 2006

Throughout the year, CaSE carries out a vast range of campaigning activities on behalf of science and engineering in the UK. This summary gives a few highlights. Each year's full *Annual Review* is available via the 'Publications' section of CaSE's website: www.sciencecampaign.org.uk

CaSE in Westminster and Whitehall

CaSE's main work is to influence Government policies on science and engineering. To do this, we meet directly with ministers, civil servants and advisers, and engage with backbenchers and Committees in both Houses of Parliament.

During the year, CaSE:

- has met regularly with top levels of Government, including the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, and has engaged at senior level with the Treasury.
- held meetings with the Science and Higher Education Ministers, and other ministers and officials from the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI), Department for Education & Skills (DfES), Office of Science & Innovation (OSI), Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) and other agencies.
- has taken part in the DTI's project planning science policies for the next fifteen years.
- participated in a private seminar on knowledge transfer with the Science & Technology Committee of the House of Commons, and given oral evidence to the Committee on scientific advice to Government; CaSE also provided written evidence to Parliamentary Committees of both Houses on science teaching in schools, knowledge transfer, Research Council institutes, public expenditure on education, and scientific advice.
- has been regularly and repeatedly cited in various Parliamentary and Government reports.
- has assisted backbenchers in drafting Parliamentary Questions and speeches, including helping several Opposition parties respond to the Budget.



CaSE in Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland

CaSE has an active programme of engaging with parliamentarians, ministers and civil servants in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Highlights during the year included:

- CaSE being called to give oral evidence to the Welsh Assembly's review of science policy, following our submission of a very detailed document based on an *Opinion Forum* with some of our supporters in Wales.
- CaSE's series of meetings with teachers, officials and educationalists in Northern Ireland, the main results of which will be published in an *Opinion Forum*, backed up by a more detailed analysis.
- CaSE's involvement with other science organisations in events in Edinburgh and Cardiff, called *Science & the Scottish Parliament* and *Science & the Welsh Assembly*.
- publication of an important article in Wales's national newspaper, the *Western Mail*, on science policy in Wales, to coincide with the First Minister's consultation on the issue, to which CaSE also provided written evidence.

Major campaigns

During the year, CaSE defined the three policy areas of highest priority for its members, using an *Opinion Forum* for member organisations as the basis. Those three themes are now driving our programme of events and activities in the run up to the Comprehensive Spending Review of 2007.

The three areas are:

- making the UK an attractive place for private sector investment in research and development
- ensuring the nation has enough well-qualified specialist science teachers in schools
- ensuring an appropriate mix of private and public funding to fund the nation's scientific ambitions for universities and colleges



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Photographs

1. The Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir David King, giving CaSE's Annual Distinguished Lecture in November
2. Amanda Arnold launching CaSE's report on public and private investment in pharmaceutical research in February
3. Science Minister Lord Sainsbury (second from right) meeting CaSE's Chairman, Richard Joyner (left), and Secretary, Peter Saunders (right)
4. Some of CaSE's members at an *Opinion Forum* about the Comprehensive Spending Review
5. Dr Anil Kumar of the Engineering & Technology Board (left) meeting with CaSE's Director, Peter Cotgreave
6. CaSE's Executive Committee at a meeting in January
7. Participants at CaSE's *Opinion Forum* on regional scientific policies in July
8. Guests at one of CaSE's meetings including Phil Willis MP, Chair of the House of Commons Science & Technology Committee (right), and Caroline Barr, Head of Science & Industry at the Treasury (centre)
9. A policy document from CaSE's new series of *Opinion Forums*
10. Professor Denis Noble (left), one of CaSE's founders, enjoying the Twentieth Anniversary Dinner with guests at Balliol College, Oxford, in January

July 2005

CaSE brings together businesspeople, researchers and Regional Development Agencies for an



Opinion Forum on regional policies for scientific businesses.

August 2005

CaSE focuses on industrial sectors that invest heavily in research and development in the UK, meeting with the

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry and the Society of British Aerospace Companies.

September 2005

CaSE discusses private funding of university research in The Times.



October 2005

As part of a major review of science policy in Wales, CaSE is one of the first groups asked to give oral evidence to the Welsh Assembly.



November 2005

The Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir David King, delivers CaSE's Annual Distinguished Lecture, reinforcing CaSE's commitment to engaging with the Government.



December 2005

In Northern Ireland, CaSE carries out a series of meetings with teachers, educationalists and officials to address policy questions of science teaching in the region.



March 2006

CaSE takes the lead in discussing new Government proposals for science announced in the Budget, with interviews, comment and articles on BBC Radio 4 and in the Daily Mail, Guardian, Scotsman, Financial Times, Daily Telegraph, and throughout the specialist science and engineering press.

January 2006



At CaSE's 20th anniversary celebrations, we bring together universities, companies and societies that support our work to help redefine our policy agenda.

February 2006

Following a meeting with the Higher Education Minister, Bill Rammell, CaSE continues its high-level contact with the Government at meetings with the Prime Minister's Policy Unit and the Head of Science & Industry at the Treasury.



April 2006

CaSE's activities centre on providing the science and engineering skills to make the UK competitive, during meetings with the Treasury and industry, and in evidence to policy makers and articles in the press.

APPENDIX 11
Memorandum from the Campaign for Science & Engineering
VALUE FOR TAXPAYERS' MONEY INVESTED IN SCIENCE
Report to the House of Commons Science & Technology Committee's inquiry into knowledge transfer
submitted by the Research Councils

May 2006

CaSE is called to give oral evidence to the Science & Technology Committee of the House of Commons on the subject of how Government obtains and deals with scientific advice.



June 2006

A meeting with the science minister, Lord Sainsbury, focuses on CaSE's three priority areas, which are outlined opposite.



CaSE's people

CaSE's activities would not be possible without the support of thousands of scientists and engineers, many universities, companies, societies and other individuals and organisations that have joined as members. CaSE relies on the dedication and hard work of its small team of staff, together with the members of its Executive Committee and Advisory Council.

During the year, CaSE:

- has strengthened its Advisory Council by appointing as new members Professor Roger Cashmore, Professor Wendy Hall, Professor Kim Nasmyth, Professor Linda Partridge, Professor Martin Poliakoff, Dr Simon Singh and Sir Gregory Winter.
- hosted an outstanding intern, Amanda Arnold, working on policies for optimising British pharmaceutical expertise.
- has increased its membership, including in the engineering and physical sciences sector, with new members including Oxford Instruments and the Engineering and Technology Board; in addition, the Post-doctoral Association at Dundee became the first group representing younger researchers to join CaSE.
- celebrated its 20th anniversary with an event in Oxford in January 2006 at which friends and supporters from the last two decades came together to look forward to the coming years.
- continued to strengthen its network of contacts, holding meetings with representatives of companies, pressure groups, learned societies, trade associations, trades unions, academic associations and other organisations.

CaSE's publications

CaSE carries out research and analyses as the basis for reports and briefing documents to support campaigns. We also publish open letters, responses to official consultations, a variety of agenda-setting publications, and newsletters for our members and other supporters.

During the year, CaSE has:

- published *Opinion Forum* documents on areas such as regional science policies and the Comprehensive Spending Review.
- published a report on the value of British pharmaceutical research in tackling diseases of the developing world.
- reported on our work in a quarterly newsletter, *CaSE News*, which has stimulated debate on issues such as teaching science in schools, the closure of research institutes, science in Europe, and British manufacturing industry.
- published a range of analyses and policy statements, including a serious examination of the funding of university science and engineering, as the basis of discussion with ministers.
- responded to consultations ranging across subjects such as the funding of university science, the Budget, science in Wales, the organisation of the Research Councils, and the Research Assessment Exercise.
- ensured our supporters have current information about our work through monthly electronic updates.

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Opinion Forum

Campaign for Science & Engineering in the UK

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The views of members and supporters of CaSE Number 2 September 2005

This report is based on discussions with representatives of small and large companies, regional development agencies, universities, trade unions and other interested organisations.

The main discussions took place at a meeting in July 2005, which was followed up with correspondence and consultations with a wider range of individuals. The issues discussed varied from those specifically relating to regional policy (such as the operation of the Regional Development Agencies) to those of a more general nature but which tend to be mediated at a local or regional level. All the participants were from organisations based in England, but many of the issues that were discussed would be equally applicable in other parts of the UK.

The findings are representative of the participants' views, but the specific opinions are the responsibility of CaSE.

This document is one of a series of Opinion Forums and presents the views of CaSE's members, contacts and supporters about current issues in science and engineering policy.

Regional policies for scientific businesses

Summary of findings and recommendations:

- Some Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) have yet to establish effective working arrangements to assist science-based initiatives in their areas. They need to ensure that interactions with business are not made too far down the chain of operation, and that bureaucracy is kept to a minimum.
- The RDAs need to be more outward-looking in judging their practices by the standards of wider industries, and to offer attractive prospects to attract high-calibre staff, including those with a sound understanding of the private sector and the university sector. Fortunately both within and between RDAs is in some cases hampering their efficiency in promoting economic growth.
- The precise role of science and industry Councils is not widely understood by the business and academic communities and needs to be better clarified.
- Many academics and their institutions continue to overstate their science financially, relative to the risk that financiers must take in supporting efforts to bring research results to market. However this is partly because the university system has been so poorly funded that pressures to increase revenue have become unrealistic. By contrast, sections of the private sector continue to underestimate the fundamental research on which more applied science is based.
- Half an Century of Industrial Collaboration (CIC) are used as role-models for big businesses, particularly those from overseas (which may not be fully aware of the UK's academic system) but because they are typically only funded for three years, they fail to achieve their potential. The model should be extended, and the initial funding for CICs should be long enough for them to have a realistic chance of becoming self-financing.
- Public sector funding of university research is administered in ways that do not promote economic activity. In particular, the Research Assessment Exercise (the only mechanism by which a university can win extra funding) ignores industrial collaboration.
- Without adequate funding universities will not be able to offer competitive salaries to attract the best researchers or people with the skills to commercialise research. RDAs could support supplying departments in the short term; in the longer term, they should be adequately funded from central funds.
- Public sector policies underestimate the value to the economy of having the right skills at the right time. The role of the old polytechnics in providing technical training should be properly re-evaluated. The economy changes rapidly, and more emphasis should be placed on continuing to develop the skills of the existing workforce, not just on the initial training of young people.

Continued overleaf



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CaSE in the media

CaSE works hard to ensure that issues of science and engineering policy are kept alive in the media, through interviews, comment, articles and letters.

During the year, CaSE:

- has appeared in the media on average once every two or three days.
- was quoted in more than 70 publications ranging from broadsheet and tabloid newspapers to specialist engineering magazines, industrial newsletters and educational publications, including everything from *Asian Voice*, to *Holyrood Magazine* and *Prospect Report*.
- appeared on various broadcast media including Radio 5 Live and several times on Radio 4's flagship *Today* programme.
- took part in a major two-part television documentary on the state of British science.
- published articles and letters in publications including the *Financial Times*, *Guardian*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Independent*, and *The Times*, as well as *Research Fortnight*, *Innovation Policy Review*, *Western Mail*, *Laboratory News* and the *British Dental Journal*.