

Summary Annual Review

Campaign for
Science &
Engineering
in the UK



A digest of CaSE's activities over a year

July 2006 to June 2007

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. More details of CaSE's work can be found on our website: www.sciencecampaign.org.uk

The past year has been a remarkably busy one for CaSE as we have redoubled our efforts on behalf the membership. Across all three of the major priorities identified last year, we have been campaigning at the heart of Parliament and Government.

First, in the area of science education, CaSE's Advisory Council formulated a set of strong arguments and engaged at the highest levels of Government.

On the issue of making the UK an attractive place for private sector research and development, CaSE held a major Opinion Forum, at which our members and supporters interacted with senior figures from the Treasury.

After his speech about science policy, CaSE prompted the Prime Minister to say he would review his Government's policies on university funding - our third major priority.

As this Summary Annual Review shows, these highlights are part of a much wider programme of meetings, publications and media activity, backed up by continual engagement with the science and engineering communities across the public and private sectors. From references in Parliamentary reports to interviews on network television and presentations to business audiences, CaSE is constantly speaking up for the science and engineering community.

The formation of a new Government by Gordon Brown will present fresh challenges for CaSE in the coming year. It will be crucial for us to build strong links with new ministers and officials. We have already started that process, and are confident that CaSE will continue to be one of the strongest voices campaigning for the health of British science.



Representatives of universities, companies and learned societies participate in CaSE's Opinion Forum for Member Organisations

CaSE's Chairman Prof Hugh Griffiths and Director Dr Peter Cotgreave with Baroness Sharp of the Advisory Council

Professor Hugh Griffiths
Chairman

Dr Peter Cotgreave
Director



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 appointed an outstanding Assistant Director, Dr Hilary LeEVERS, who has strengthened and expanded our work, especially in the field of education.
- has increased its membership across a range of sectors, with new members including the Institution of Chemical Engineers, Institute of Food Research, the Ordnance Survey, Lancaster University and London Metropolitan University.
- commemorated Professor Richard Joyner's ten years as Chairman and elected Professor Hugh Griffiths as his successor.
- used the collective authority of its Advisory Council to secure a crucial meeting with Treasury ministers.
- 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.



New Assistant Director Dr Hilary LeEVERS meets outgoing Chairman Prof. Richard Joyner

Lord May of Oxford (left) meets Dr Norma Morris and Prof. Don Braben of CaSE's Executive Committee on the occasion of his Annual Distinguished Lecture on *How to stimulate creativity and how to stifle it*

Writer and broadcaster Simon Singh and Professor Mike Smith of Sheffield Hallam University both spoke at this year's Opinion Forum for Member Organisations

CaSE regularly visits organisations that subscribe to membership, such as Newcastle University, Sharp Laboratories and Bradford University.



July 2006

CaSE focuses on science in schools, publishing its evidence to a House of Lords inquiry, meeting with the Shadow Education Secretary and giving an interview for BBC Radio.



August 2006

Focusing on the commercialisation of university research, CaSE publishes letters and articles in the Financial Times, The Scientist and Innovation Policy Review.

September 2006

A major Opinion Forum involving the Treasury, business and academia allows CaSE to examine ways in which the UK's level of investment in research and development can be enhanced.



October 2006

A whole variety of CaSE's activities focus on ensuring that public policies allow the economic benefits of science to be realised. These include taking part in meetings, delivering talks, commenting in the broadcast and print media, giving evidence to inquiries and participating in events with ministers.

November 2006

CaSE is at the forefront of discussions about the future of science policy, tackling the Prime Minister following his speech about science and reacting in the media.



December 2006

CaSE focuses on European science policy, leading the criticism of European Union plans to create a new Institute rather than addressing underlying weaknesses in funding mechanisms.



January 2007

A meeting of distinguished scientists and engineers on CaSE's Advisory Council prepares a letter to the Chancellor to urge greater action to address the problems of science in schools.



February 2007

CaSE leads the science community in condemning the cuts to the Science Budget announced by the Secretary of State for Trade & Industry. An important article in the Guardian, comment on BBC radio and elsewhere, meetings with Treasury and DTI officials, and an uncompromising letter to the Trade Secretary ensure our message gets across.

March 2007

A major area of concern - the poor advice children receive about careers in science - is addressed in an Opinion Forum document, publishing the views of a wide range of interested groups.



April 2007

Leading the debate about the profile of science in Government, CaSE published an article in the Daily Telegraph calling for science to have a stronger place at the Cabinet table, and follows this up with another article in the Financial Times.



May 2007

An editorial in Nature, the world's leading scientific journal, urges the science community to support CaSE's important campaigning work on behalf of British science and engineering.



June 2007

As a new Government takes office, CaSE meets with ministers and officials, sets out an agenda in the broadcast and print media, addresses two meetings in Parliament, engages with Opposition front benchers, helps backbenchers draft Parliamentary questions, and holds discussions with businesspeople, academics and schoolteachers, proving that CaSE remains at the forefront of the campaign to sustain and enhance the health of UK science and engineering.

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 engaged regularly with top levels of Government, including with the Prime Minister and at senior level with the Treasury.
- has 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, including Lord Sainsbury's independent review of science and innovation policies.
- has given presentations at several meetings in Parliament.
- has regularly met and corresponded with Shadow ministers from the main Opposition parties.
- included Treasury officials and Parliamentarians from both Houses in its Opinion Forum events and other meetings.
- has been regularly and repeatedly cited in various Parliamentary and Government reports.

■ has assisted backbenchers in both Houses in drafting Parliamentary Questions and speeches, including helping members of the main Opposition parties respond to various Government announcements.



<p> House of Commons Science and Technology Committee</p> <p>Scientific Advice, Risk and Evidence Based Policy Making</p> <p>Seventh Report of Session 2005-06</p> <p>Volume I Report, together with formal minutes</p> <p><small>Ordered by the House of Commons to be printed 26 October 2006</small></p> <p><small>HC 900-I Published on 8 November 2006 by authority of the House of Commons London: The Stationery Office Limited £15.50</small></p>	<p>Science and Technology Evidence Kx 15</p> <p>26 May 2006 Dr Richard Peto, Professor Martin Taylor, Dr Caroline Mallon and Dr Peter Craggs</p> <p>Q187 Sir Nigel: I respect the rest of the panel agree with you. I am sure that you will be able to provide a list of people to whom we can refer. This needs to be done as part of the work of the Scientific Advisory Council. It needs to be going on at the lowest levels of ministerial and agencies working in departments on the daily grind of working on policies. I think that is the most important point.</p> <p>Dr Peto: One of the big problems is that from your point of view there are a number of people who are not well known to you. In the same way, I guess, there are quite a number of people, departments and agencies who are not well known to you. How do you propose to deal with that? Do you have any suggestions for the way in which we should do that? Do you have any suggestions for the way in which we should do that? Do you have any suggestions for the way in which we should do that?</p> <p>Dr Peto: I would like to see a committee that has with a couple of chairs. I agree that as the high level of scientific expertise to help the Government to try to come back to us. We have not quite a lot to make contact with Government and I would like to see them respond a little more to our questions. At the same time, it is important that we have a good relationship with the Government.</p> <p>Dr Peto: I would like to see a committee that has with a couple of chairs. I agree that as the high level of scientific expertise to help the Government to try to come back to us. We have not quite a lot to make contact with Government and I would like to see them respond a little more to our questions. At the same time, it is important that we have a good relationship with the Government.</p> <p>Dr Peto: I would like to see a committee that has with a couple of chairs. I agree that as the high level of scientific expertise to help the Government to try to come back to us. We have not quite a lot to make contact with Government and I would like to see them respond a little more to our questions. At the same time, it is important that we have a good relationship with the Government.</p>
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Parliamentarians from both houses and other members of CaSE's Advisory Council meet at the House of Lords

Throughout the year, CaSE has met, questioned and corresponded with ministers including Tony Blair, Alistair Darling, Gordon Brown and Bill Rammell

Parliamentary reports, such as one of scientific advice to Government, regularly draw on CaSE's evidence

Parliamentarian Lord Jenkin of Roding and Treasury Official Caroline Barr address two of CaSE's Opinion Forums

