



Annual Review

Campaign for
Science &
Engineering
in the UK



A digest of CaSE's activities

July 2007 to June 2008

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

CaSE has gone through a transformation this year with a new Director, Membership Officer and Research and Administrative Assistant joining the existing Assistant Director. The CaSE team has taken this opportunity to bring new ideas and energy to the organisation, enhancing our ability to act as an advocate for science and engineering on behalf of our members.

There was a re-organisation of science and engineering in government and parliament, following the change in leadership last June. CaSE has worked hard to develop constructive relationships with new contacts to ensure that we remain at the heart of science and engineering policy.

CaSE Impact

Research Base: CaSE's lobbying in the run up to the Comprehensive Spending Review helped secure a favourable overall settlement for science and engineering. However, following specific concerns about the Science Budget Allocations, CaSE engaged in political and media debates about the application of the Haldane Principle and the importance of fundamental research.

STEM Education: CaSE kept education on the political agenda by working with the Shadow Secretaries of State for Education and Innovation to highlight the current inequality of science and mathematics provision. We have kept up the pressure in the media by calling for more trained specialist teachers and greater provision of separate science GCSEs. We are developing clear proposals for Government on how it can increase and diversify the uptake of science and engineering.

Government and Parliament: CaSE lobbied to retain proper scrutiny of science policy in Parliament, following the creation of the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills. This was achieved in part by increasing the number of MPs on the new select committee and then inclusion of science within the title of the Innovation, Universities and Skills Committee. CaSE raised the alarm about the future of the Foreign Office's Science & Innovation Network, which has now been maintained within the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Corporate R&D: Before and after the publication of the Innovation Nation White Paper, CaSE has argued for Government to focus on increasing the skills and knowledge that are critical to innovation and locating corporate R&D in the UK. We are working with our expanding corporate membership to better understand and convey their concerns.

Going forward

CaSE is in the process of developing a new organisational strategy to guide our work over the next five years. To inform the strategy we consulted our members and the feedback we received was positive and useful. Our new strategy will help ensure that we can shape the policy debates that will affect UK science and engineering over the next few years. We will be ready for the next election and possibly a new Government in the UK, the Comprehensive Spending Review and, looking further afield, debate about the percentage of the European Budget going to R&D. While we must respond to upcoming political developments in the UK, it is vital that we take an international perspective so that we are not complacent about our standing in science and engineering.

CaSE, with its diverse membership, strong track-record, and independent analysis, is perfectly placed to advocate the policies needed to make the UK a world leader in science and engineering. With your support, we look forward to doing so.

Professor Hugh Griffiths
Chairman

Nick Dusic
Director

CaSE's policy work

CaSE influences government policies on science and engineering through meeting directly with politicians, civil servants and advisers in the UK and devolved governments.

- CaSE wrote and met with government ministers and their advisers on key issues, including the Science Budget Allocations, STEM education and science at the Foreign Office.
- CaSE developed strong relationships, met and corresponded with shadow ministers from the main opposition parties.
- CaSE was cited in parliamentary reports and advised parliamentary committees on science and engineering policy issues.
- CaSE assisted backbenchers in both Houses in drafting Parliamentary Questions and speeches.

CaSE in the media

CaSE gets its message across in the media on key science and engineering policy issues through interviews, comment articles and letters.

- CaSE was quoted in a range of media outlets, including *the Times*, *the Guardian*, *the Daily Telegraph*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Times Higher Education*, *Times Educational Supplement*, *Research Fortnight* and the *BBC*.
- CaSE published articles in *Times Higher Education*, *Research Fortnight*, *Innovation Policy Review*, *Laboratory News*, *Engineering and Technology*, *the Journal*, *the Biochemist*, and the *RSC Science Policy Bulletin*.

CaSE at conferences

- CaSE was a panellist at the *BA Science Communication Conference*, *Oxford Science Week* and the *British Ecological Society's annual meeting*.



David Willetts MP, 2008 Annual Lecture

CaSE's meetings

CaSE has an active programme of meetings and publications to shape the political debate on pressing science and engineering issues.

Annual Lecture

- The Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, gave this year's Annual Lecture on science and education.

Opinion Forum

- CaSE held an *Opinion Forum* this year to discuss options for improving the diversity of science and engineering. The project was sponsored by the UK Resource Centre for Women in SET.

Science in the parliaments

- CaSE took part in annual meetings in the UK Parliament, Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly to increase the profile of science and engineering.

CaSE's publications

Policy Reports and Briefings

- CaSE published a policy report on *Delivering Diversity: Making Science and Engineering Accessible to All*, which followed from the Opinion Forum.
- CaSE produced briefings on the Science Budget and STEM education.

Keeping our Members informed

- CaSE continues to publish a quarterly newsletter and monthly e-bulletin to keep our members and opinion-formers up-to-date with our activities and the latest news in science and engineering policy.

Consultation Responses

- CaSE responded to a range of consultations and parliamentary inquiries, including the Innovation White Paper, Engineering inquiry, the proposed Research Excellence Framework and the European Research Area.



Dr Hilary LeEVERS, CaSE's Assistant Director, working with the UKRC for Women in SET

July 2007

CaSE campaigned for Parliament to retain its scrutiny of Government science policy, with letters to the Leader of the House, and in the *Times* & *Guardian*, resulting in the decision to appoint extra members to the Innovation, Universities and Skills Committee in order to ensure that it could cover the cross departmental issues that the Science & Technology Committee had previously dealt with.

August 2007

CaSE congratulated students over the UK as they received their results. This year, numbers of additional mathematics, and separate science GCSEs increased, as did physics and chemistry A-levels. CaSE received a lot of press coverage on key messages: the shortage of specialist teachers and limited provision of separate science GCSEs.

September 2007

CaSE met with David Willetts MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and his frontbench colleagues, Adam Afriyie MP, and Rob Wilson MP.

CaSE also met with the Liberal Democrats, Phil Willis MP, Evan Harris MP, and Sandra Gidley MP.

October 2007

The Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, gave the CaSE Annual Distinguished Lecture.

CaSE held an Opinion Forum on Under-Represented Groups in Science and Engineering sponsored by UKRC for Women in SET.

November 2007

CaSE co-sponsored Science in the Parliament at Edinburgh, with the keynote speech from Professor Anne Glover, the Scottish Chief Scientific Advisor, and much debate and discussion with Members of the Scottish Parliament.

CaSE participated in the Belgo-British Conference "Bridges across the Channel".

December 2007

CaSE raised a variety of concerns about science budget allocations, including the £80 million shortfall in funding for the Science and Technologies Facilities Council, the £92 million taken from the MRC Commercial Fund by the Treasury, and the increased emphasis on government priorities and economic impact for Research Councils.

March 2008

In the annual Budget, the Chancellor highlighted the UK's history of scientific invention as central to its success in the global economy. CaSE was critical of the Innovation Nation White Paper launched the next day for not putting improving the state of science and engineering as central to the UK's innovation agenda.

April 2008

CaSE discussed the crisis under which Save British Science was founded and the challenges that CaSE now targets in an article in the *Times Higher Education*. The article featured many UK Nobel prize-winners some of whom are on CaSE's Advisory Council and considered what facilitates this level of excellence.

May 2008

Writing in *Research Fortnight* CaSE called for a strengthening of the Haldane Principle to support the independence of the scientific endeavour and the accountability of government.

CASE participated in the BA Science Communication Conference and co-sponsored Science and the Welsh Assembly.

January 2008

CaSE welcomed the announcement that the Government has agreed to add "Science" to the title of the Innovation, Universities and Skills Committee. CaSE met with Phil Willis MP to discuss how the Committee would scrutinize government science policies.

CaSE raised the alarm about the future of science and innovation at the Foreign Office.

February 2008

CaSE welcomed the Conservative Party's investigation into the unequal provision of science education, which followed from CaSE's work in this area.

CaSE responded to HEFCE's consultation on the Research Excellence Framework calling for peer review to be maintained in the process.

June 2008

Ian Pearson MP, Minister for Science, used the creation of Save British Science to question the Conservative Party's record on science during DIUS questions in the House of Commons.

CaSE consulted its members in preparation for developing its new five year strategy.

Organisational Developments

CaSE has undergone a series of organisational changes this year. We have three new members of staff. Our advisory council and organisational membership have been strengthened by the addition of leading academics, research charities and companies.

Members of Staff

- Director: Nick Dusic
- Assistant Director: Dr Hilary Leever
- Membership Officer: David Hawksett
- Research and Administrative Assistant: Nick Hall

New Executive Committee Members

- Professor Anthony Finkelstein
- Dr David Hollinshead
- Dr Judi Ellis

New Advisory Council Members

- Professor Julia Goodfellow
- Professor Diana Green
- Professor Dame Julia Higgins
- Professor Sir Tim Hunt
- Professor Sir Aaron Klug
- Professor Lord May of Oxford
- Professor Sir John Walker

New Organisational Members

- Association of Medical Research Charities
- Breast Cancer Campaign
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Norwich Research Park
- Syngenta
- Unilever

Membership Survey and Strategy

In June, CaSE surveyed its members to find out how they wanted to see us develop over the next five years. Both organizational and individual members were in agreement that CaSE should remain a campaigning group, rather than an alliance or think-tank, although aspects of those two roles should feature. Raising the importance of science and engineering in public policy and political decision making was seen to be CaSE's major objective

Although the majority of respondents believed that CaSE was finding the right balance between influencing and reacting to policy developments, a number called for a more proactive stance in anticipating and influencing government policy. Developing strong relations with government ministers and civil servants was seen to be a key strength of CaSE.

We will be using the information from the survey along with further ideas from both internal and external discussions to develop our new strategy. The new strategy will build upon CaSE's track record of influencing policy decisions in order to improve the state of science and engineering in the UK.



Top: Professor Hugh Griffiths FEng (CaSE chair), Phil Willis MP (Chair of the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee) and Nick Dusic (CaSE Director)

Middle: CaSE staff: Nick Dusic, David Hawksett, Dr Hilary Leever and Nick Hall

Bottom: Nick Dusic and Lord Rees of Ludlow (President of the Royal Society and member of CaSE's Advisory Council).