

Building our Future with Science & Engineering

In the run up to the General Election, politicians need to spell out how they will ensure that science and engineering address societal challenges and build a more robust economy.

CaSE, its members and collaborators believe that a skilled workforce, a strong research base in a fertile environment for innovation, and a central place for science and engineering in government are all vital for the UK's future prosperity. We urge the next government to develop coordinated, coherent and stable long-term policies for science and engineering.

Skilled scientists, engineers and mathematicians are the basis of a knowledge economy.

- A rich diversity of science and engineering subjects, people and institutions increases the UK's capacity for research and innovation.
- School pupils need to be able to study biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics, taught by specialist teachers, and progress to further and higher education courses funded at levels that sustain their quality.

Research and innovation are driving forces for future growth.

- The UK's research base needs enhanced, protected and sustainable funding - it produces rapid benefits through developing a highly-skilled workforce and more sustained benefits from innovative new products and services that improve our quality of life.
- The investment of private companies and charities in research and development should be supported through various mechanisms, such as a favourable tax system, strong research base and a culture for collaboration.

Science and engineering are central to government.

- All government departments need to commission research, assess evidence and use expert advice to advance and evaluate their policies. Every department, including the Treasury, should have a Chief Scientific Adviser and the integrity of scientific advice should be enshrined in the Ministerial code.
- To ensure proper oversight of policies affecting and affected by science and engineering, the Minister for Science and Innovation should be in the Cabinet.

Countries that compete and collaborate with the UK have recognised the importance of science and engineering and are supporting them accordingly.

The next government must ensure that science and engineering have the right funding, skills and political priority to build a brighter Britain.

The supporters and rationale behind these statements are available on the CaSE blog.

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