



Annual Review

Campaign for
Science &
Engineering
in the UK



CaSE's Activities; an overview

July 2009 to June 2010

The past year has been one of change for CaSE. We have moved to a new, expanded office, welcomed a new director, and gained a new prominence in the field of science and engineering policy. We thank Nick Dusic, our outgoing director, for his work in building this prominence. This review outlines progress towards our strategic objectives, as set out in our five-year strategy 2009-14.

We were extremely active during the **2010 General Election**, spearheading the 'Science Vote' campaign. This saw CaSE organise a debate between the science spokesmen for the three main parties, receive detailed letters from David Cameron, Nick Clegg, and Gordon Brown, and have over a dozen parliamentary candidates blog for us as part of their campaigns.

CaSE continues to **build its political networks** with Government officials, advisers and parliamentarians. But our reputation for independent analysis increasingly means that decision makers come to us for our advice. This reputation was noted in two separate editorials in the journal *Nature* this year.

Over the year, CaSE continued to look at evidence for the various **impacts of research**, and particularly economic impacts given current financial pressures, as well as strategies to increase impact. A report on this, *Impacts of Investment in the Science and Engineering Research Base*, was published in September 2009 and forms the basis for ongoing work in this area.

Since the election our focus has been on arguing for continued **funding for science and engineering**. The Government has announced there will be significant cuts across Whitehall in order to reduce the deficit, but CaSE has been working with members and collaborators to set out the evidence showing that investing in science and engineering promotes growth; therefore reduced funding would be a false economy.

Furthermore, reduced public support would lead to reduced **charitable and private-sector investment** in science and engineering. CaSE coordinated a letter to *the Times*, signed by leaders from some of the UK's biggest industrial investors in research and development, which underlined this point.

CaSE continues to advocate the importance of **evidence-based policy** in Government. We worked with partners to draft the *Principles for the Treatment of Independent Scientific Advice*, and were pleased to see its eventual incorporation into the Ministerial Code. We also welcomed the appointment of a Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales, and continue to campaign for a Chief Scientific Adviser for HM Treasury – the only Whitehall department which still lacks one.

A focus on **diversity** in science and engineering, and the importance of **education** at all career stages, underpins much of CaSE's work. We continue to work with collaborators to stress the cross-cutting nature of these agendas. We have been following up our work on **international excellence** by arguing for the importance of science and engineering with respect to the Government's proposed cap on non-EU economic migrants.

We have already established strong relationships with new MPs and the new Government. We will use and build on these to achieve the best possible policies for science and engineering over the coming year. We thank our members for their ongoing support and input which allow this to happen.

Professor Hugh Griffiths
Chairman

Imran Khan
Director

Set the Science and Engineering Policy Agenda

Science and Engineering Policies

Over the year CaSE developed and communicated positions on a range of science and engineering policy issues within the areas of:

- Machinery of government
- Funding the research base
- Science, technology, engineering & mathematics education
- Government R&D and advisory system
- Corporate investment in R&D

General Election

CaSE held a series of policy workshops which resulted in three working briefs underlying CaSE's policy advice in the run-up to the general election. CaSE:

- Published a one-page election document, *Building our Future with Science & Engineering*, which urged the parties to develop clear and long-term policies to enable science and engineering to address societal challenges and build a more robust economy.
- Publicised David Cameron, Nick Clegg & Gordon Brown's responses to CaSE's letter asking them to set out their science and engineering policies in advance of the election. The commitments in these letters went beyond those in their manifestos.
- Organised a pre-election debate on science and engineering between the science spokesmen from the main political parties, hosted by the Institution of Engineering & Technology (see picture, below).
- Re-named the CaSE blog to *The Science Vote* to act as a forum for debate on science and engineering election policy, listing relevant commitments of the different parties, and giving people advice on what they could do to make science and engineering an election issue. Traffic peaked at 60,000 hits a day.
- Developed links with prospective parliamentary candidates (PPCs), inviting them to write for the CaSE blog and engage with science and engineering.

New Government

- CaSE rapidly analysed what the coalition could mean for science and engineering, contacted incoming parliamentarians and provided briefings for the Queen's Speech debates and ongoing issues.

Regions

- CaSE attended and co-sponsored events and meetings in the Welsh and Scottish devolved administrations.

(L to R) Dr Evan Harris, former Liberal Democrat science spokesman, Lord Drayson, then Minister for Science & Innovation, and Adam Afriyie, then his Conservative Shadow, at the CaSE science and engineering policy debate, chaired by Roger Highfield, Editor of *New Scientist*, January 2010

Build Strong Political Networks

- Assisted parliamentarians in drafting parliamentary questions and speeches. Issues raised included departmental R&D spending, meetings between ministers and departmental scientific advisers, and migration statistics.

Pre-Election

- Met with the Science Minister and his advisers on several occasions, as well as the Conservative and Liberal Democrat counterparts, to discuss their parties' policies on science and engineering. CaSE also met with the shadow Schools Minister and advisers to the shadow Secretary of State for Education.
- Met with civil servants at the Departments of Children, Schools and Families and of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS), including the Director General, Science and Research.
- Met with the Government Chief Scientific Adviser.

Post-Election

- Met MPs with an interest or background in STEM who were re-elected or newly-elected to the new Parliament, inviting them to engage with science and engineering issues.

Inquiries and consultations

- CaSE's Director gave oral and written evidence to the House of Commons Science and Technology (S&T) Committee inquiry on the impact of spending cuts on scientific research, and to the Lords S&T Committee's inquiry on setting science and technology research priorities, as well as written evidence to the Commons S&T Committee on strengthening the guidelines on scientific advice.
- CaSE had discussions with advisers from the House of Commons and Lords S&T Committees about their work and other departmental select committees.
- CaSE responded to a number of consultations, including the Guidelines on Scientific Advice to Government, the BIS review of Science Advice, and the QCA Primary Curriculum Review.



Provide a Resource on Science and Engineering Policy

Briefings

CaSE produced briefings, available on demand:

- Securing our Economic Future with Science & Engineering
- Treatment of scientific advice by government
- Proposed cap on non-EU migrants
- Reaching 2.5% of GDP on R&D
- Setting research funding priorities
- Queen's Speech Debate on education
- Research Excellence Framework (REF)
- Triple science GCSE

Reports

CaSE published its report on *Impacts of Investment in the Science and Engineering Research Base*.

Commenting in the media

■ The Director and Assistant Director commented on policy developments in *the Financial Times*, *the Times*, *the Guardian*, *the Daily Telegraph*, *Nature*, *New Scientist*, *Times Higher Education*, *The Mail on Sunday*, *Times Educational Supplement*, *Research Fortnight*, *Science*, *BBC website* and others.

■ CaSE wrote articles in *The Guardian*, *Research Fortnight*, *Physiology News*, *Civil Service Network*, *People and Science* and *Lab News*. CaSE also had letters published in *The Times* and *Times Education Supplement* and wrote guest posts for *The Guardian* and the *New Scientist's S-Word* blog.

■ CaSE's Director spoke at events at the Royal Society, House of Lords, Institute of Ideas, NESTA crucible, Parliamentary Links Day, Westminster Skeptics, PolicyNet, and SciTech 2010.

CaSE News

The quarterly CaSE News covers news and comment on key developments in science and engineering policy.

CaSE e-bulletin

The number of subscribers to our monthly email update has almost doubled. Anyone interested can sign up to receive it on our website or blog.

Blog and Website

CaSE created a blog to provide ideas about, analysis of, and a resource for science and engineering policy, with guest bloggers and CaSE staff writing on topical issues: <http://blog.sciencecampaign.org.uk/>. The website still details all of CaSE's work: <http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk/>

Twitter

CaSE now uses Twitter as a quick and efficient way of communicating with members and others. Follow us on: <http://twitter.com/sciencecampaign>

Develop a Broad and Engaged Membership

Shaping our policy agenda

Our policy responses during the year have been shaped by conversations with our members. CaSE hosted six meetings between members and other key organisations to discuss our work and help promote collaboration and coherence in the sector.

Bespoke engagement

CaSE is committed to meeting all of its members in order to refresh and reinforce our relationships. Thank you to those we have met so far and we look forward to further such meetings over the rest of the year. A thoroughly engaged and diverse membership will ensure that we continue to receive the best inputs into our policy work.

Broad membership

CaSE welcomed new organisational members this year:

- Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
- Airbus
- Lockheed Martin UK
- University of York
- BCS - The Chartered Institute for IT
- Cancer Research UK
- BAE Systems

CaSE will continue to engage with new organisations that want to ensure that the UK is an internationally competitive place to do science and engineering.



The Government Chief Scientific Adviser Professor John Beddington (Left) gave CaSE's 2009 Distinguished Lecture hosted by Wellcome and supported by Prospect and EngineeringUK, with Professor Hugh Griffiths (Right), Chair, CaSE Executive Committee

Organisational Issues

■ Governance

CaSE has set-up a committee to finalise its change of status. There were no changes to the Executive Committee this year. Julia Goodfellow left the Advisory Council.

■ Office Move

CaSE moved office at the end of June - please note our new details at the bottom of this page.

■ Financing

CaSE continues to provide exceptional value-for-money for its members, with an annual spend of £135,000 for the 2009-10 financial year. This is helped by much appreciated sponsorship and use of facilities from members and supporters.

■ Fundraising Drive

CaSE is hoping to increase its income from existing and new members in order to cover increased immediate and ongoing costs from the office move. Importantly, we also need extra income to enable us to make a long-term extension to staff time, rather than the short-term provisions described below.

■ Staffing

CaSE has committed to more staff time until the end of the year, so that the Researcher and Administrator is working full- instead of half-time and the Membership Liaison has gained an extra half-day to 0.5FTE. The Director works full-time and the Assistant Director, 0.7FTE.



CaSE staff (L to R) - Nick Hall (Research and Administrator), Imran Khan (Director), Dr Hilary Leevers (Assistant Director) and Dave Hawksett (Membership Liaison)

Organisational Members

Airbus

Association of Medical Research Charities

AstraZeneca

BAE Systems

Biochemical Society

Breast Cancer Campaign

British Ecological Society

British Pharmacological Society

British Psychological Society

Brunel University

BCS - The Chartered Institute of IT

Cancer Research UK

Cardiff University

Deans of Science

Engineering Professors' Council

Experimental Psychology Society

Genetics Society

GlaxoSmithKline

Heads of Chemistry UK

Heriot-Watt University

Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine

Institute of Physics

Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine

Institution of Chemical Engineers

Institution of Engineering & Technology

Institution of Mathematics and its Applications

Johnson Matthey

King's College London

Kingston University

Lancaster University

Lockheed Martin UK

London Mathematical Society

London Metropolitan University

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

London School of Pharmacy

Merck Sharp & Dohme

National Farmer's Union

Norwich Research Park

Pfizer

Physiological Society

Queen Mary, University of London

Queen's University, Belfast

Rolls-Royce

Royal Astronomical Society

Royal Holloway

Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Royal Society of Chemistry

Royal Statistical Society

Sharp Laboratories

Sheffield Hallam University

Society for Experimental Biology

Society for General Microbiology

Society of Biology

Syngenta

Unilever

University College London

University of Aberdeen

University of Birmingham

University of Bradford

University of Bristol

University of Cambridge

University of Dundee

University of Durham

University of Edinburgh

University of Exeter

University of Glasgow

University of Leeds

University of Leicester

University of Liverpool

University of Manchester

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

University of Nottingham

University of Oxford

University of Sheffield

University of Southampton

University of St Andrews

University of Strathclyde

University of Surrey

University of Wales, Aberystwyth

University of Warwick

University of Westminster

University of York

Wiley-Blackwell

Zoological Society of London

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