



**Campaign for Science &  
Engineering  
Monthly E-Bulletin  
May 2009**

[www.sciencecampaign.org.uk](http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk)

### What we are working on

- **European Elections:** We will be producing a short policy report on EU science and engineering policies for incoming European Parliamentarians. Topics covered will be research funding, regulation of research, scientific and engineering advice in policymaking, and supporting corporate investment in R&D.
- **Report on the Impact of the Science and Engineering Research Base:** We are finalising our report on the topic. If you would like to feed any thoughts or comments please contact us.
- **Forthcoming meetings:** CaSE will be in Cardiff for Science and the Assembly and in Scotland for the School Science Summit on 5<sup>th</sup> May. We will also be meeting with Evan Harris MP, Liberal Democrat Science spokesperson later in the month.

### News

- **E-bulletin:** We will be revamping our e-bulletin for next month. If you have any comments on how it could be improved please let us know. You can also recommend to your colleagues who are interested in science and engineering policy to subscribe to it via our website.
- **Meetings with organisational members:** CaSE has been meeting with representatives from many of our organisational members. We are working our way through the list, but please get in touch if you would like to set up a meeting.
- **Presentation to policy officers' forum:** Nick Dusic will be giving a short lunch time presentation to a group of learned society policy officers on campaigning during the run up to the general election on 27<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact Rebecca Smith at the Biochemical Society for more details: [Rebecca.Smith@biochemistry.org](mailto:Rebecca.Smith@biochemistry.org)

### April Diary

#### 30/04/09 CaSE attends launch of NESTA report

CaSE today attended the launch of NESTA's 'The Connected University' report, which calls for improved connections between the UK's universities, businesses and local government as a key to unlocking future economic growth.

[View the report](#)

30/04/09 **CaSE met with representatives from the Geological Society.**

30/04/09 **CaSE met with Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, University of Manchester.**

29/04/09 **John Innes Centre parliamentary dinner**

CaSE Director Nick Dusic attended a dinner at the House of Commons, looking at the social and economic impact of the research base, hosted by Charles Clarke MP

28/04/09 **CaSE met with Professor Sir Roy Anderson, Rector of Imperial College London.**

23/04/09 **Reform**

Hilary Leever, CaSE's Assistant Director, met with Dale Bassett and Laurie Thraves from the think tank Reform to discuss their forthcoming work on education.

22/04/09 **Budget**

CaSE responded to the Budget announced today by expressing concern at the refocusing of the research councils' budget into key areas of economic potential.

[Read the budget](#)

[Read the press release](#)

[Read the budget response briefing](#)

[Read CaSE's comments in the media](#)

21/04/09 **Meeting with Adam Afriyie MP**

Nick Dusic met with Adam Afriyie, Shadow Science and Innovation Minister, to discuss the Budget, research funding and science and engineering skills during the downturn.

20/04/09 **CaSE responds to new government industrial strategy**

CaSE welcomed the governments' commitment to protect and raise investment in science and research in its industrial strategy New Industry, New Jobs. Commenting on the report CaSE Director, Nick Dusic, said that, "The government's recognition that a strong research base is crucial to aiding Britain's economic recovery is important. However, efforts to increase the economic impact of the research base need to be developed with a greater degree of sophistication in the future." CaSE is looking for the Budget on Wednesday to contain targeted support for science and engineering.

[Read the New Industry New Jobs strategy](#)

20/04/09 **Budget Briefing**

CaSE has produced a briefing on science and engineering spending for the forthcoming budget.

[Read the briefing](#)

20/04/09 **IUSS Committee**

CaSE submitted supplementary evidence to the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee as part of its inquiry 'Putting science and engineering at the heart of government policy' on Lord Drayson's recent proposals on strategic science funding.

19/04/09 **Conservative Science Commitments**

CaSE was pleased to see that the Conservative Party is starting to make commitments to science and engineering. CaSE has been meeting with the Conservatives to discuss their

science and engineering policies and will continue to do so. George Osborne, the Shadow Chancellor, called on Chancellor, Alistair Darling to make good provision for science training in Wednesday's Budget, outlining a package worth £600 million. Nick Dusic, CaSE Director, said "The UK cannot afford to lose science and engineering talent to the recession. Additional support for education and skills is a good investment as it will help scientists and engineers be better trained and prepared for the upturn. It is vital that the UK improves its skills base if we are to have a more balanced economy in the future."

#### **16/04/09 Science Diploma Delayed**

It was announced today that the introduction of the Science Diploma Level 3 (equivalent to three A levels) will be delayed by one year to 2012. Like others involved in developing the diploma, CaSE has expressed concern at the tight time-tabling for its development and was relieved at this decision.

#### **16/04/09 CaSE met with the Open University.**

#### **15/04/09 Sir John Maddox**

CaSE was saddened to hear of the death of Sir John Maddox, a member of CaSE's Advisory Council. As a former science journalist and editor, Sir John worked tirelessly on behalf of the science community. His energy and insight shall be greatly missed.

**08/04/09 Dr Hilary Leever, CaSE Assistant Director, met with Dr Peter Cotgreave and Emily Roberts of the Royal Society** for a productive discussion of their work on diversity and equality.

#### **08/04/09 CaSE met with the Institution of Chemical Engineering.**

**06/04/09 Nick Dusic met with a special advisor to the Secretary of State for the Department of Innovation, Universities, and Skills (DIUS).** They discussed the Budget, recent DIUS debates about future research funding and the transparency of funding decisions.

**06/04/09 Nick Dusic participated in a meeting on Research for our Future organised by Research Councils UK.**

#### **03/04/09 CaSE met with BAE Systems.**

**01/04/09 CaSE attended a discussion meeting organised by the Foundation for Science and Technology** on raising skills in the UK workforce - mental capital, skills and well-being.

#### **01/04/09 Royal Society meeting on science funding**

Nick Dusic took part in a discussion meeting with Adam Afriyie, shadow science minister, and other members of the science community about the future of science funding. The meeting was also the launch of the Royal Society's report on the Fruits of Curiosity. During the meeting Nick Dusic raised the importance of a long-term framework for research funding.

This month CaSE featured in [the Financial Times](#), [the Guardian](#), [BBC News](#) and [Nature](#), among others. To view all of CaSE's recent appearances in the media please follow [this link](#)

**For more information on our activities go to our website  
[www.sciencecampaign.org.uk](http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk)**

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