

CaSE Press Release

12th June 2009

Parliamentary Scrutiny of Science and Technology

The Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) welcomed the Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Committee's report on the "The future of science scrutiny following the merger of DIUS and BERR", which called for the re-establishment of a Science and Technology Committee. The Science and Technology Committee was abolished in 2007 following the creation of DIUS.

Commenting on the need for a Science and Technology Committee in the House of Commons, Nick Dusic, CaSE's director, said:

"The abolition of the Science and Technology Committee was a mistake that the government should rectify. Letting parliament re-establish the Science and Technology Committee would show that it is handing power back to the House of Commons.

"A Science and Technology Committee would be able to investigate science policy issues that cut right across the boundaries of individual government departments. The former Science and Technology Committee provided an important forum for informed debate on science, technology and policy.

"Incorporating science scrutiny within a business, innovation and skills committee would severely limit both the scope and frequency of inquiries on science and engineering issues within government."

CaSE wrote to the Leader of the House on the 8th June encouraging her to allow the House of Commons to revisit the issue of scrutiny of science and engineering.

Ends

Notes to editors

1. For further information, please contact Dr Hilary Leever, Assistant Director on 07905304702
2. Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE) is a policy advocate for science and engineering in the UK. CaSE is supported by its members, which includes individuals, corporations, universities and learned societies. Further information on CaSE can be found on our website: <http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk>