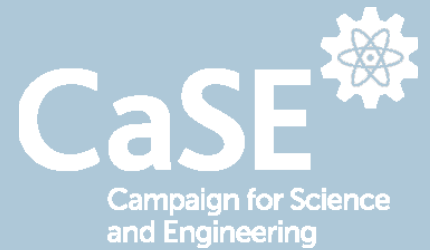


Campaign for Science
and Engineering



ANNUAL REVIEW 2020-21

ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

- Pushing the government to meet its investment targets
- Launching a campaign to grow public support for R&D
- Leading awareness on funding for Horizon Europe
- New briefing on inspiring innovation in young people
- Ensuring the entire UK reaps the rewards of R&D
- Offering members value for money

Message from the Executive Director

During what has been a challenging year for so many of us, I'm proud to say that CaSE has gone from strength to strength. Working remotely throughout the pandemic, CaSE found energy and vigour in advocating for the value of the whole, interconnected research ecosystem in the UK. We used our reach across the full and varied breadth of science and engineering activities in the UK to reveal the effects of the pandemic on research and advocate for measures to sustain it. In addition, we pursued important programmes of work that enable us to help ensure the UK is a place where science and engineering can thrive: on science education, funding for participation in European research programmes, and the contribution of research and innovation to local economic prosperity. I am delighted that CaSE has added an important new strand to its work in exploring and building a broader base of public support for research investment. I would like to thank all of CaSE's members for their support over the past year, when your own circumstances may have been difficult too. With your support, CaSE has navigated the challenges it has faced and finds itself in a robust position to be a voice for science and engineering in the year ahead.

Sarah Main

Professor Sarah Main, CaSE Executive Director

Introduction from the new Chair

I was delighted to take on the role of CaSE Chair at the end of 2020. Since then, it has been a busy year in which the CaSE team have achieved a tremendous amount. Building off Professor Graeme Reid's efforts as outgoing Chair we were able to launch the Discovery Decade project which will enable us to extend the level of public engagement on science, supported by a grant of over £1m from the Wellcome Trust. I am also delighted to say we have recruited an excellent chair, Kim Shillinglaw and project manager, Ben Bleasdale to lead this critical piece of work. With the current phase of the CaSE strategy approaching a natural conclusion I have used this year to refresh the strategy and I am looking forward to sharing more of this with you soon. I continue to be hugely indebted to the Board for the wise counsel and knowledge they provide. A number of Board members will reach the end of their terms this year and I want to take the opportunity to thank them for their input. I am very excited about the quality of people we continue to attract to join our Board. These new Board members, which we will propose at the AGM, will play a critical part alongside the existing Board members in helping CaSE deliver its future ambitions.

Throughout what has been a very challenging period Sarah and the team have managed to work seamlessly while at the same time moving into new offices. I look forward to the opportunity to returning to meeting with her, the team and the Board face to face in 2022.

Bob Sorrell

Bob Sorrell, CaSE Chair of Trustees

Our achievements this year

Championing the call for public investment in R&D

As we recover from the effects of the Covid pandemic, CaSE has argued strongly for continued investment in science and engineering as a driver of economic growth and prosperity. The Government has previously set targets towards the goal of investing 2.4% of GDP in R&D by 2027, and CaSE is pushing Government to hold to this course. Ahead of the Spending Review we've published a five point plan on how the Prime Minister's aspiration for the UK to become a 'science superpower' can become a reality:

1. Publish a full budget trajectory to make the R&D targets work harder
2. Use increasing R&D investment to strengthen the foundations
3. Channel science and technology into all parts of government
4. Deliver R&D opportunities for every region of the UK
5. Attract the R&D workforce that the UK needs for tomorrow

We've also published incisive analysis warning of the potential consequences if the UK fails to invest in public R&D, covered by The Financial Times and BBC News.

Supporting all areas of the UK's research ecosystem

CaSE worked hard this year to resolve the issue of a funding gap on Horizon Europe association. We highlighted the implications of the gap in Parliament and raised its profile in the media, bringing together sector leaders to speak on the issue. Following these actions the Government announced additional funds to support payment of the bill for Horizon Europe without affecting existing budgets. CaSE has also campaigned to reverse budget cuts affecting R&D through overseas aid and support for medical research charities. This year CaSE has also undertaken a new project of work aimed at understanding and championing the UK's public and non-profit research institutes.

On business-led R&D, CaSE has worked closely with the Government on its Innovation Strategy and the final strategy contained several recommendations to encourage private investment in R&D from our report 'Building on Scientific Strength'.

Engaging with politicians, officials and policymakers

Over the year CaSE has met with the Science Minister's office, HM Treasury, UKRI, Home Office, Department for Business, Government Office for Science, Ministry for Local Government, Cabinet Office, US Embassy, London Mayor's Office, Greater Manchester Mayor's Office, Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland's Office, and the Chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee.

Attracting public support for the UK's R&D future

CaSE has launched a new project, The Discovery Decade, aimed at harnessing a broader base of public support for R&D investment and ensuring that such commitments remain a political priority. The project is backed by a major £1 million grant from the Wellcome Trust and will work to conduct research, develop advocacy tools and road-test new ideas towards the goal of expanding public support for R&D. Kim Shillinglaw, former Controller of BBC2, has been appointed as Project Chair and Ben Bleasdale as Project Director, building on the CaSE-Wellcome joint 'R&D Decade' project which examined advocacy options for the sector.

Growing our skills base to drive innovation for all

High-quality science education is crucial to driving forward the government's plans to grow and 'level-up' the UK economy and society. To this end CaSE has published 'Inspiring Innovation', a briefing putting forward recommendations for the UK and devolved governments to enable them to provide high-quality science education in primary and secondary schools across the UK. The briefing recommends support in three important areas:

- Creating a confident and empowered teaching workforce
- Making science and engineering inclusive to all young people
- Giving students exposure to practical, experimental science

The Government recently published its People and Culture Strategy, which aims for people from all backgrounds to participate and prosper in a more innovative economy and society, and CaSE's briefing sets out steps to make this possible.

Maximising the impact of research across the UK

Ahead of May's local and devolved elections, CaSE wrote to the leaders of political parties in Scotland and Wales and candidates in the regional mayoral elections across the UK, inviting them to embrace the opportunities offered by science and engineering.

The letters continue CaSE's Power of Place work, examining how to maximise the local economic impact of greater R&D intensity throughout the UK. Many of the recommendations from our Place report were included in the Government's R&D Roadmap. CaSE has used this analysis in discussions with central and local Government, including a roundtable event with the Cabinet Office, the London Mayor's office and Greater Manchester Mayor's office, as well as writing to the Secretary of State for Local Government and taking part in UKRI events on the place agenda.

Sector-wide engagement**315 direct meetings**

with members, politicians, policymakers, officials, the media and the wider science and engineering sector

CaSE Annual Lecture with UKRI

The CaSE Lecture 2020 was given by the Chief Executive of UKRI, Professor Dame Ottoline Leyser, and sponsored by Elsevier. Over 500 attendees from across the community came together online to watch Professor Leyser's lecture, setting out her thoughts on the future direction of the relationship between science and society.

Profile raising and expert analysis

As a trusted source of independent and responsive analysis, we regularly comment in the media on a range of science and engineering issues. Over the last year CaSE staff have been regularly invited to offer their insight at panel events and speaking engagements. These include the UK Science Park Association's Policy and Research Forum, the Council of Professors and Heads of Computing policy roundtable, a Westminster Forum event on evidence in policymaking, and the Executive Director giving her inaugural lecture as Professor at Westminster University.

45 mentions in the media

including CaSE's Executive Director interviewed by ITV on the Government's new National Science and Technology Council, a letter in The Times on our 'Inspiring Innovation' briefing, and calling for long-term R&D funding in The Financial Times

CaSE has responded to Parliamentary inquiries and consultations on a number of topics, including the budget, the Government's R&D roadmap, the 2021 Spending Review and the newly created Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA). We also successfully called for a Commons Science and Technology Committee inquiry into the effects of Covid-19 on business R&D and submitted evidence.

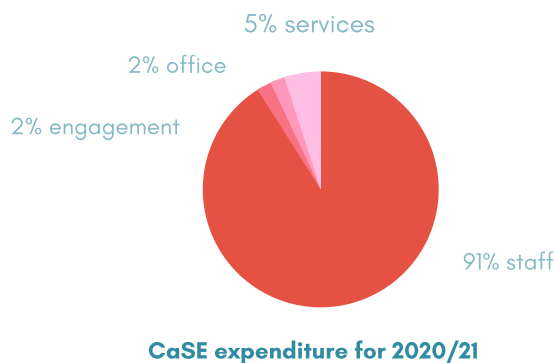
A vital resource for the entire sector

CaSE provides a valuable role at the heart of the science and engineering sector, promoting collaboration, dialogue and resource sharing. Our CaSE comment blog offers the latest up-to-date analysis on science and engineering policy issues, while our guest blog series brings together topical comment from across the community. We also collate details of open consultations relevant to the sector and vacant science policy jobs on our website.

Our organisation

Finances

Despite the financial upheaval caused by the Covid pandemic, CaSE remains in a strong financial position. Our income for 2020/21 was £376,000 with our expenditure being £309,000.



Staffing

James Wood worked as Policy Officer from April to September 2021, on secondment from the civil service, supporting CaSE's policy work and provides extra resources to the team. This year we have also said goodbye to Rachel Day who served as CaSE Office Manager from 2017, and Sarah Gardner who provided maternity cover for the role. Our thanks to both of them for their hard work, as well as Sanchia Jones who has provided secretarial support.

Governance

Dr Bob Sorrell has been appointed the new Chair of the CaSE Board. Dr Sorrell has 30 years' experience in science and engineering policy, as well as serving in a variety of advisory roles, and replaces Professor Graeme Reid as Chair following the expiration of his six year term. Under Professor Reid CaSE excelled in fulfilling its mission and we thank him for his leadership. CaSE also welcomes the appointment of new trustees to the Board; Dr Stephen Breslin (Glasgow Science Centre), Dr Mark Downs, (Royal Society of Biology), Catherine Johns (Kielder Observatory), Professor Andrew Jones, (City, University of London), and Ron Mobed (formerly Elsevier).

Ambitions for 2022 and beyond

- Maintaining the uplift in public funding for science and research towards reaching the investment target of 2.4% of GDP in R&D by 2027
- Placing science, research and skills at the heart of government policy-making, from the 'levelling-up' and innovation agendas, to growing the domestic skills base and attracting overseas talent
- Taking forward the next phase of our Discovery Decade project, working with the wider sector to grow public support for R&D
- Ensuring that the entire science and engineering sector recovers from the impact of Covid-19, so that it can play a leading role in the UK's future growth and prosperity
- Publishing a new strategy to give CaSE a clear mission and vision for the decade
- Growing our membership to further enhance our resources, expertise and authority

Working hard for our members

Organisational members

CaSE's independence and expertise comes from being funded by our membership of over 100 organisations. Our members are part of a dedicated collective, working to ensure that the UK has world-leading research and education, skilled scientists and engineers, and innovative businesses.

Our organisational members have opportunities to influence our messaging and gain policy insight through exclusive events, consultations, surveys, reports and meetings. In the last year we've held member roundtables with a variety of key stakeholders on:



New organisational members
that have recently joined CaSE

- The Government's R&D Roadmap with Imperial College London and BEIS
- The 2021 Comprehensive Spending Review with the former Universities and Science Minister Lord Willetts and senior officials from UKRI
- The Government's Innovation Strategy and how to best capture talent with Lego
- The future of Horizon Europe association with the UK Mission to the European Union

Members are also offered priority booking at our public events, including the Annual Lecture, and the opportunity to partner with us on relevant work, such as co-authoring reports, sponsoring or hosting events. This year we were delighted to co-host a roundtable with the the Physiological Society on UK Government support for interdisciplinary research. CaSE also offers its expertise and insight by speaking at a number of member events.

"The scope and objectivity of CaSE provides invaluable cross-sector links, from public understanding to government policy and funding, that form the diversity of thought and impact necessary to promote the visibility, creativity, delivery, and relevance of science and engineering in the UK"

Professor Alastair Wood, University of Bradford

Individual members

We would like to thank all of our individual members for their generous support over the past year, allowing us to retain our independence and continue our campaign for a thriving science and engineering environment in the UK. Individual members receive event invitations, regular updates on CaSE's work, and opportunities to engage. You can also make a one-off donation to our cause.

To discuss any membership or giving please contact: membership@sciencecampaign.org.uk

A membership that reflects the sector

UK science and engineering is a rich ecosystem from across the private, public and third sector. We are proud to count over 100 of these organisations in the CaSE membership, including businesses, universities, colleges, research institutes, professional bodies, public engagement centres, trade unions, venture capital firms, and research charities.

Companies

Aerospace Technology Institute
Airbus
AstraZeneca
Fraunhofer Research UK
GlaxoSmithKline
Huawei
Johnson Matthey
John Wiley & Sons Ltd
MSD
National Measurement Laboratory
NETPark (North East Technology Park)
PraxisAuril
Richmond Pharmacology
UCB
UK Innovation & Science Seed Fund

Learned and Professional Societies

Biochemical Society
BioIndustry Association
BMVA-British Machine Vision Association
British Ecological Society
British Pharmacological Society
British Society for Immunology
Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors
Council of Professors and Heads of Computing
Engineering Professors' Council
Epilepsy Society
Heads of Chemistry UK
Institute of Acoustics
Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Institute of Physics
Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine
Institution of Chemical Engineers
Jisc
London Mathematical Society
Microbiology Society
National Farmers' Union

Prospect

Royal Astronomical Society
Royal Society of Biology
Royal Society of Chemistry
Royal Society of Edinburgh
Royal Statistical Society
Society for Applied Microbiology
Society for Experimental Biology
The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
The British Psychological Society
The Geological Society
The Institution of Engineering & Technology
The Learned Society of Wales
The Physiological Society
UK Science Park Association
Zoological Society of London

Universities and Institutes

Anglia Ruskin University
Babraham Institute
Brunel University
Canterbury Christ Church University
Cardiff University
City, University of London
The Francis Crick Institute
Glasgow Science Centre
Heriot-Watt University
Imperial College London
John Innes Centre
Kielder Observatory
King's College London
Kingston University
Lancaster University
London Metropolitan University
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
Loughborough University
Newcastle University
Northumbria University
Queen Mary, University of London
Queen's University, Belfast
Royal Holloway

Sheffield Hallam University
Swansea University
The Alan Turing Institute
The Open University
Ulster University
University College London
University of Aberdeen
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
University of Bradford
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Dundee
University of Edinburgh
University of Essex
University of Exeter
University of Glasgow
University of Kent
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
University of London
University of Manchester
University of Oxford
University of Plymouth
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of St Andrews
University of Strathclyde
University of Surrey
University of Sussex
University of Warwick
University of Westminster
Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute
Wrexham Glyndwr University

Charities

Versus Arthritis
Association of Medical Research Charities
British Heart Foundation
Cancer Research UK
Wellcome Trust

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