

Campaign for Science and Engineering

# **ANNUAL REVIEW**

## **2021-22**

### **ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR**

**Launching our new seven-year strategy**

**Influencing October 2021 Spending Review**

**Pressing for Horizon Europe association**

**Unlocking the potential of PSREs**

**Discovery Decade project begins**

**Offering members value for money**

## Message from the Executive Director

This year, CaSE has put the public at the heart of our work. We have embedded public benefit at the heart of our new strategy, reflecting an ongoing transition in our work and challenging us to go further in the future. Our trailblazing Discovery Decade programme aims to create a shared vision for R&D and widen public support. And our policy campaigns, at the Spending Review and on Public Sector Research Establishments, have shone a spotlight on the power of R&D to improve people's lives and livelihoods across the United Kingdom.

As we welcome a new administration into No. 10, we will work hard to secure long-term commitments to R&D investment and to highlight why a strong R&D base is essential to the future prosperity of the UK. We will continue to advocate for a thriving ecosystem for research and innovation in the UK and with our partners in Europe and the rest of the world.

Thank you to all our members for supporting CaSE through your engagement with our work. Together, we will continue to put science and engineering at the heart of the UK's future.



Professor Sarah Main, CaSE Executive Director

## A few words from CaSE Chair of Trustees

I want to congratulate the CaSE team and the trustees for their hard work over the past 12 months, developing the new strategy for the next seven years. I am also very pleased to see the excellent progress made in the Discovery Decade work which will provide valuable insights into how we engage the broader public around R&D related issues. This work comes at a time when science and engineering is increasingly being called on to develop innovative solutions to the challenges the world faces.

I am grateful to our board members for their considered opinions and expert knowledge. Several board members have left at the end of their terms: I'm grateful to Simon Jennings and Hannah Kerr, who have stepped down at the end of their term, for their hard work and commitment. I'm delighted to welcome Jane Hughes, Perdita Fraser and Kim Graham to the board of trustees and am confident they will play a vital role supporting CaSE as it continues to advocate for science and technology.



Bob Sorrell, CaSE Chair of Trustees

## A year of successes

### Unveiling our new strategy for 2022-2029

CaSE has launched our new strategy for 2022-2029, setting out the purpose and priorities that will support and guide us over the next seven years. At the heart of it is public benefit, which reflects an ongoing transition in our work while challenging us to go further in the future. The 'R&D decade' we are in now presents exciting opportunities for the UK, society and individuals.

CaSE wants to work with our members, partners, and the public to support its success and delivery in a way that tangibly improves people's lives and livelihoods. This strategy will drive us to go even further to put science and engineering at the heart of the UK's future. As part of this strategy we have formulated a series of five new priorities. We want science and engineering to:

1. Serve the needs and aspirations of both the public and those working within the community
2. Secure the resources it needs and deploy this investment for everyone's benefit
3. Have its voice heard in public discourse, ensuring that political ambitions for the sector are matched by effective policy making
4. Be a community that continuously seeks new ways of collaborating towards a shared strategic vision
5. Thrive across all parts of the UK and benefit from diverse local strengths

### Our values

We **collaborate** with our members, partners and the public to lend our clear, **expert** voice to decisions about science and engineering. By offering **responsive** and **non-partisan** solutions, our aim is to help research and innovation thrive in a way that improves people's lives and livelihoods.

#### Engaging with politicians, officials and policymakers

CaSE works across the UK and has engaged with policymakers in devolved administrations and regional authorities. In Whitehall, CaSE has engaged with No. 10, HM Treasury, BEIS, the Department for Education and the Department for International Trade.

Our Executive Director has met with the Science Minister to discuss Horizon Europe and we are continuing to build connections with the new Office for Science and Technology Strategy to support the coordination of R&D investment across government.

## Influencing October 2021 Spending Review

The 2021 Spending Review was an important moment to make progress towards the Government's ambitious targets to boost investment in R&D.

In September 2021 CaSE published our five-point roadmap, drawn up after discussions with our members and forming the centrepiece of our asks from the review. We also held discussions with HM Treasury, UKRI and other senior parts of government to feed our messaging into the Spending Review process and understand where we could be most effective.

Through our close working relationship with members, government and funders, it became apparent that real consideration was being given to the Government dropping their commitments on R&D investment, and that concerted action was needed to keep them on the right track.

In the weeks leading to the Spending Review we warned that the UK risked missing out on billions in private R&D investment if the Government delayed its timetable for investing in science, highlighting how the UK has stagnated on R&D spending over the last 20 years as other nations have moved forward.

### Media Coverage

- ▶ **BBC News**
- ▶ **Financial Times**
- ▶ **Evening Standard**
- ▶ **Politico**
- ▶ **The Express**

With our relationships in the media we were able to highlight these messages in the Financial Times and BBC News. In addition to promoting our own analysis, we also joined 32 other leading organisations, to call on the Chancellor to commit to the Government's public R&D investment targets at the review.

Although the review was a positive, it's still short of the Government's ambitions of reaching £22bn by 2024/25, with this target pushed to 2026/27 and into the next Parliament.

More work is needed to maximise the UK's scientific potential. While the Government has committed to investing 2.4% of GDP in R&D by 2027, our updated projection shows the UK's research intensity would reach 2.33% of GDP in 2027. The Government must re-double its efforts to maintain business confidence and investment to ensure this goal becomes reality.

## Pressing for Horizon Europe association

When the Brexit agreement was signed in December 2020 it looked as though it would be good news for the UK's association to Horizon Europe. It's now clear that that is not the case and there is concern that research could become a casualty of the dispute over the Northern Ireland Protocol. Our view is that association is a win-win for Europe and the UK and would allow researchers to continue with world leading research and collaborations. Without it, they could lose access to multi-billion euro research programmes, and it could damage scientific relations and collaborations built up over many years by research teams across the UK and Europe.

CaSE is urging the UK Government and European Commission to build on the hard work done by negotiators in 2020 to agree the terms of UK access to European research programmes and secure our future scientific partnership. The Government must act to mitigate the negative impact the ongoing uncertainty is having on the UK's research sector, by building on UKRI guarantees. Should association not proceed, the Government must bring forward details for a robust 'Plan B' with short-term measures allowing universities and businesses to adapt to a large and sudden change to the research funding landscape.

## PSREs can help UK be 'science superpower'

We spoke to more than 30 Public Sector Research Establishments (PSREs) and Research Council Institutes (RCIs) from across the UK to better understand their contribution to the research ecosystem. Our report, *Unlocking the potential of PSREs*, set out how the government and research sector can better use these institutions to drive innovation and support the UK's ambition of becoming a 'science superpower'.

Additional public investment in R&D must be underpinned by a cross-government strategy that prioritises coordination and collaboration across and within government, academia and industry. It must focus on using all parts of the system, particularly those currently under-represented or valued. We conclude:

- PSREs need sustainable funding, including longer term government budgets
- The cross-government Science & Technology strategy should lead a step-change in approach to PSRE governance
- Partnerships should be strengthened between PSREs and policy teams across government, academia and industry

## Discovery Decade project

Since securing a major, 3-year grant from the Wellcome Trust in 2021, CaSE's new Discovery Decade project began in August.

The team are working on its goal of securing a broader and more active base of public support for R&D as an investment priority for the UK. With the recent shifting political landscape, there is greater urgency for our sector to communicate the value of R&D in a clearer, more compelling way.

To better understand perceptions of R&D across society, the team are working with a research agency to produce a gold-standard audience dataset. This will be based on nationally representative polling of 10,000 people and 14 focus groups across the UK – to map differences in support and understand where people encounter R&D in daily life.

**Open-access  
audience dataset**

**10,000 people polled  
14 focus groups**

We will publish this data as an open access resource for advocates across the sector, and work with a creative agency to translate the findings into new ideas for others to adopt and scale. We hope this will help the sector focus on more targeted and effective advocacy, and build new bases of support among the public.

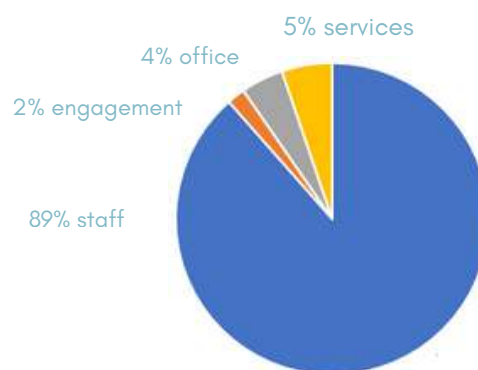
To ensure this research serves the needs of those advocating for R&D, the Discovery Decade team are working closely with the sector, including through workshops to collate what's already known, and identify gaps in our collective experience.

We have worked with partners to explore how R&D institutions connect with local communities, how medical research charities use R&D in donor communications, and R&D's role in a future vision for Greater Manchester.

# Our organisation

## Finances

CaSE is an effective organisation and uses its resources efficiently. We were awarded a grant of more than £1m by the Wellcome Trust in May 2021 to fund the three-year Discovery Decade project. In 2021-22, excluding this project, CaSE income was £310,00 and expenditure was £295,000.



CaSE expenditure 2021/22

## Staffing

This year we said goodbye to James Tooze, Policy Officer, Anne Rowlands, Office Manager, and Nick Hall who was with CaSE for 14 years in various roles, most recently Communications Manager. Our thanks to them all for their hard work and dedication to CaSE. We welcomed Ben Bleasdale as Director of the Discovery Decade project, Rebecca Hill as Advocacy and Engagement Officer on the Discovery Decade project and Camilla d'Angelo as Policy Officer. Kim Shillinglaw, former Controller of BBC2, has joined as Chair of the Discovery Decade project.

## Governance

This year CaSE has welcomed Jane Hughes, Perdita Fraser and Kim Graham to the Board. Simon Jennings and Hannah Kerr stood down as their terms came to an end. We thank them for their hard work and commitment. Lesley Yellowlees was appointed Deputy Chair of the Board.

## Ambitions for 2023 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, 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
- Growing our membership to boost our resources, expertise and authority

## Working hard for our members

### Organisational members

CaSE's independence and expertise comes from being funded by a 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. Members also enjoy 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.



New organisational members  
that have recently joined CaSE

### A vital resource for the sector

*CaSE provides a valuable role at the heart of the science and engineering sector, promoting collaboration, dialogue and resource sharing. Our 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.*

### Individual members

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

### CaSE Annual Lecture 2021

Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director of the National Science Foundation, gave our CaSE Annual Lecture 2021. More than 300 colleagues from the science and engineering community heard Dr Panchanathan discuss 'Placing science and innovation at the heart of the US and UK's future'. As the Biden Administration and US Congress proposed to increase investment in scientific and technological innovation, and the British Government set a target to increase public investment in R&D, the lecture was an opportunity to examine these efforts in a global context and understand what lessons can be learned from America.

To discuss membership or donation please contact: [membership@sciencecampaign.org.uk](mailto: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

Advanced Research Clusters  
AMRICC  
AstraZeneca  
Bruntwood SciTech  
Diamond Light Source  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Huawei  
Johnson Matthey  
MSD  
National Measurement Laboratory  
NETPark (North East Technology Park)  
UCB  
UK Innovation & Science Seed Fund

### Learned and Professional Societies

Aerospace Technology Institute  
Biochemical Society  
British Ecological Society  
British Machine Vision Association and  
Society for Pattern Recognition  
British Pharmacological Society  
British Psychological Society  
British Society for Immunology  
Chartered Institute of Ergonomics &  
Human Factors  
Council of Professors and Heads of  
Computing  
Engineering Professors' Council  
Epilepsy Society  
Fraunhofer UK Research Limited  
Glasgow Science Centre  
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  
Kielder Observatory  
Learned Society of Wales  
London Mathematical Society  
Microbiology Society  
National Farmers' Union  
PraxisAuril  
Prospect  
Royal Astronomical Society  
Royal Society of Biology  
Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)  
Royal Society of Edinburgh  
Royal Statistical Society Learned Society  
Society for Applied Microbiology  
Society for Experimental Biology  
The Association of the British Pharmaceutical  
Industry  
The Geological Society  
The Institution of Engineering and Technology  
The Physiological Society  
UK Bioindustry Association  
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  
Cranfield University  
Heriot-Watt University  
Imperial College London  
John Innes Centre  
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 University of London  
Sheffield Hallam University  
Swansea University  
The Alan Turing Institute  
The Francis Crick 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 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

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

Campaign for Science and  
Engineering  
1 Naorji Street  
London  
WC1X 0GB

[info@sciencecampaign.org.uk](mailto:info@sciencecampaign.org.uk)  
[www.sciencecampaign.org.uk](http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk)  
[@sciencecampaign](https://www.facebook.com/sciencecampaign)  
[www.facebook.com/sciencecampaign](https://www.facebook.com/sciencecampaign)

Charity number: 1147492  
Company number: 7807252