

# Annual Review

July 2011 to June 2012

## Challenging times

With spending cuts, immigration restrictions, and education reform, the past year has been a challenging one for the science and engineering community.

Amidst it all, CaSE has been continuing to push for science and engineering to be at the heart of the political agenda, ensuring that both politicians and the media understand the importance of our sector and how to support it.

## A busy year

In this Annual Review for 2011-12 you can find an overview of our campaigns. We've led the line in showing how the so-called 'frozen' science settlement masked a deep cut in research spending, successfully staved off new restrictions on scientists and engineers working and settling in the UK, secured Scotland's first Science Minister, encouraged researchers to get politically active themselves, called for a more enlightened debate over Lords Reform, and much else.

We've also evolved as an organisation. CaSE gained charitable status and welcomed six new Board members, including Prof Colin Blakemore as our new Deputy Chair. Eight organisations, including Google, the Wellcome Trust, and the University of Kent, boosted our ranks over the past twelve months, taking CaSE's membership to over 100 organisations for the first time in its history.

## Looking ahead

The coming year will bring yet more challenges. We already know that we have to argue for a potential windfall from the sale of '4G' mobile broadband spectrum to be re-invested in science and engineering, and will be looking ahead to a potential new Spending Review in 2013 with a view to reversing the recent cuts. It's also high time the UK took a lead in revitalising our scientific education and skills pipeline in more than a piecemeal way — and when it comes to politics and policy, we must also be prepared for the unexpected.

In all this, and more, CaSE will continue to add our voice in setting the science and engineering policy agenda, developing our political networks, and providing a responsive and impartial resource for policy-makers and the media. We also know that we could not do any of it without the support of our members — so thank you.

## Year at a Glance

- **Authoritative CaSE report highlighting £1.7 billion cut in science spending**
- **Welcomed £400 million extra investment by Government in science and engineering**
- **New exceptional talent route for 1,000 non-EU migrants, including scientists and engineers, created**
- **Successfully campaigned government to exempt university collaboration from VAT**
- **CaSE report published on expertise in the House of Lords**
- **Science Minister appointed in Scotland after CaSE pressure**
- **CaSE grows to over 100 organisational members**
- **Over 120 media appearances for CaSE**
- **5,000 CaSE followers on Twitter and rising**
- **Meetings with representatives from the Conservative Party, Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the SNP, the Department for Business, HM Treasury and GO Science**



Professor Hugh Griffiths FREng  
**Chairman**



Imran Khan  
**Director**

## Informing Political Debate

### Funding Science and Engineering

■ CaSE's report 'Public Funding of UK Science and Engineering; Putting Government Rhetoric to the Test', published in September 2011, revealed an alarming decline in funding as part of the the 2010 Spending Review, and called on the Government to develop a long-term investment plan to boost economic growth in the UK.

■ CaSE's comments on science funding were debated in both Houses of Parliament, by the Science Minister and his Shadow, as well as the Chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology (S&T) Committee. CaSE's response to the 2012 Budget was also discussed in the Commons.

■ CaSE had letters published in *The Times* and *Times Higher Education*, renewing the argument for investment, and CaSE's Director was interviewed on BBC2's *Daily Politics*. CaSE also held roundtable discussions with members and collaborators on the upcoming Spending Review and the Government's potential multi-billion pound windfall from auctioning the '4G' radio spectrum to mobile phone operators.

■ CaSE gave evidence to the House of Commons S&T Committee inquiry into the commercialisation of research, and the HM Treasury consultation on R&D Tax Credits. CaSE also successfully campaigned for the government to exempt university collaboration from VAT, and co-hosted a speech by the Science Minister on the need to build a high-tech economy in the UK.

### Political Engagement

■ CaSE met with the Conservative Science Minister, the Schools Minister, the Labour Shadow Science Minister, the Liberal Democrat Science Spokesperson, and the Chair of the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology.

■ CaSE engaged in two Liberal Democrat policy consultations, on the party's science policy, and the party's policy on Sustainable Sources of Prosperity and Jobs.

■ CaSE met with the Head of Research Funding at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), and officials from the Government Office for Science. CaSE also met with the Science and Technology Department of the French Embassy in the UK.

■ CaSE supported and informed the work of the Chair and staff of the House of Lords and House of Commons S&T Committees, as well as the Chair and staff of the House of Commons BIS Committee.

## Immigration Campaign

This last year has seen CaSE sounding the alarm over the Government's 'migrant cap' for workers and students from outside the EU, warning that such restrictions might harm the UK's science and engineering base. We secured key concessions, including:

- The creation of a new exceptional talent route for 1,000 people, which includes scientists and engineers.
- Avoiding cuts to the overall limit on 'skilled worker' immigration, to allow for forward planning.
- Securing exemptions for PhD-level professionals, and those on the Shortage Occupation List, regarding restrictions limiting their length of stay in the UK.
- Relaxing the labour market restrictions for advertising PhD-level jobs outside the EU.
- Providing new visa routes for visiting professionals, and protecting current routes used for research, training and exchange schemes with non-EU countries.

In November 2011 CaSE organised a letter to *The Times*, signed by 20 leading figures from the science and engineering community, including two former Presidents of the Royal Society and the current Director of the country's biggest research charity, the Wellcome Trust.

CaSE has also held regular meetings with the Home Office and the UK Border Agency. April 2012 saw CaSE organise a roundtable on immigration policy with Home Office policy leads and over twenty CaSE member organisations.

## Diversity Agenda

CaSE has been raising the profile of the diversity agenda in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM).

■ In March 2012, CaSE published a report on socio-economic diversity in STEM, which found that lower social background was still a barrier to pursuing certain subjects at university.

■ CaSE's recommendation that Government develop a strategy and specific targets for increased inclusion of women in science was supported in a House of Commons debate on the subject.

■ The STEM Disability Committee, which CaSE helped found, set up its website and held its first public meeting.

## Evidence-based policy

### Expertise in the House of Lords

■ CaSE published a report, examining the role of expertise in the House of Lords and asking how the current use of expertise could be improved.

■ The report formed a key part of CaSE's work on House of Lords reform. CaSE held a roundtable meeting in Parliament to discuss the proposed reforms and wrote articles for *The Telegraph* and *Research Fortnight*. CaSE's Assistant Director also appeared on *The Guardian's* 'Science Weekly' podcast.

### Chief Scientific Advisors

■ CaSE published analysis of the departmental Chief Scientific Advisor (CSA) network, which found wildly inconsistent support mechanisms for science advice on a number of key criteria, including relevant expertise, independence, and sufficient oversight powers.

■ The analysis received widespread media coverage, including the Director appearing on *The Guardian's* 'Science Weekly' podcast. Our findings were echoed by a House of Lords S&T Committee report into departmental CSAs, which CaSE gave evidence to. Further to calls by CaSE, CSAs have now been appointed in every government department, apart from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

■ As part of our work in this area, CaSE met with the newly-appointed CSA to HM Treasury, and the deputy CSA for the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

### Scotland

■ CaSE corresponded with Alex Salmond, the Scottish First Minister, and met with the Cabinet Secretary for Education. As a result, the SNP appointed Scotland's first ever Science Minister. CaSE also met with the Scottish Chief Scientific Advisor and the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats to discuss science in Scotland.

### Engaging Scientists with Politics

■ CaSE held a free public event at the British Library, which encouraged scientists and engineers to engage more with politics, and discussed ways of improving levels of scientific and political debate.

■ CaSE's Director also wrote an article in *Research Fortnight*, calling on the scientific community to provide better scientific advice to Parliament. In response, the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee instructed Lord Oxburgh to review STEM information sources used by Parliamentarians.

## Education and Skills

■ CaSE successfully argued for the protection of high-cost STEM subjects from the Government's higher education reforms, which threatened to cut numbers in these subjects in favour of lower-cost disciplines.

■ CaSE successfully lobbied for reforms to computing education in schools, and joined the British Humanist Association in campaigning for a ban on the teaching of creationism as valid science in Free Schools.

■ CaSE responded to the Department for Education's consultation on teacher training and supported plans to provide bursaries for training in science subjects. CaSE also submitted evidence to the House of Commons S&T inquiries into practical experiments in school science lessons and higher education in STEM subjects.

■ CaSE's Director commented in the media on the career diversity of science graduates, and the need for a kitemark in science and maths education, as well as being interviewed by *BBC Breakfast* on STEM exam results.

### Membership

Our policy work has been shaped by conversations with our members — over the last 12 months we held over 80 meetings with organisational members and collaborators. This year we've welcomed the following new organisational members:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ■ BASF                   | ■ Google                      |
| ■ Bayer                  | ■ University of Hertfordshire |
| ■ University of Brighton | ■ University of Kent          |
| ■ University of Essex    | ■ Wellcome Trust              |

### Outputs

■ **CaSE News.** Our quarterly newsletter features news and comment on key developments in policy.

■ **CaSE Website.** Covers all our ongoing work: [www.sciencecampaign.org.uk](http://www.sciencecampaign.org.uk)

■ **CaSE e-bulletin.** Sign up here for our monthly update: <http://tinyurl.com/casebulletin>.

■ **Twitter.** 5,000 followers and counting. Follow us at: [www.twitter.com/sciencecampaign](http://www.twitter.com/sciencecampaign).

### Events

■ CaSE's Director and Assistant Director gave numerous addresses, including at the SciTech Innovation UK conference, North-East Postgraduate Research Conference, Queen Mary University London, Heads of University Biological Sciences, and the TUC.

■ CaSE co-organised regular 'Science Question Time' events on economic growth, impact, education, drugs, and nuclear policy.

# Organisational Summary

## ■ Change of Status

CaSE has registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee (Company Number: 7807252). We've also been granted charitable status (Charity Number: 1147492).

## ■ Board of Directors

Following our change of status, CaSE elected its new Board of Directors, replacing the previous Executive Committee. We welcome Prof Colin Blakemore, Ms Aisling Burnand MBE, Dr Tom Crick, Ms Becky Purvis, Prof Sandy Steacy and Dr Chris Tyler as new members of the Board. We also say goodbye to Prof Bill Banks, Dr Judith Ellis, Prof Anthony Finklestein, Mr David Hollinshead, Prof Richard Joyner, Mr Steve Robinson, and Prof Peter Saunders.

## ■ Finances

CaSE continues to provide exceptional value-for-money, with a spend of just £180,000 for the 2011-12 financial year.

## ■ Sponsorship and Hosting

We thank the Institute of Physics and the Biochemical Society for sponsoring our events, and also thank the British Library, IChemE, the Royal Academy of Engineering, Imperial College, King's College, Nesta, Policy Exchange, Cancer Research UK, and the Wellcome Trust, for hosting.

## ■ Staffing

Beck Smith joined CaSE as Assistant Director in October 2011. She plays a leading role in CaSE's policy analysis and supporting the work of the Director, Imran Khan. Prior to her appointment, Beck was Head of Policy at the Biochemical Society.

## ■ Interns

Many thanks to our interns for all their help over the last year: Katya-yani Vyas, Sophia Docherty and Graham Shaw.

## Organisational Members

### ■ Industry

Airbus  
ARM Holdings  
AstraZeneca  
BAE Systems  
BASF  
Bayer  
BMJ  
Wiley-Blackwell  
Electroimpact  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Google  
Johnson Matthey  
Merck Sharp & Dohme  
Norwich Research Park  
Oxford Instruments  
Pfizer  
Rolls-Royce  
Sharp Laboratories  
Syngenta

### ■ Learned & Professional

Royal Astronomical Society  
The Biochemical Society  
Society for Experimental Biology  
Society of Biology  
Heads of Chemistry UK  
The Royal Society of Chemistry  
IChemE  
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT  
The UK Deans of Science  
The British Ecological Society  
Engineering Professors' Council  
The Institution of Engineering & Technology  
The Genetics Society  
The Geological Society  
The British Machine Vision Association  
and Society for Pattern Recognition

London Mathematical Society  
The Institute of Mathematics  
and its Applications  
Society for Applied Microbiology  
Society for General Microbiology  
National Farmers' Union  
The Royal Pharmaceutical Society  
The British Pharmacological Society  
Institute of Physics  
The Institute of Physics and Engineering  
in Medicine  
The Physiological Society  
The British Psychological Society  
Experimental Psychology Society  
Royal Statistical Society  
Zoological Society of London

### ■ Academia

University of Aberdeen  
University of Wales, Aberystwyth  
University of Birmingham  
University of Bradford  
University of Brighton  
University of Bristol  
Brunel University  
University of Cambridge  
Cardiff University  
University of Dundee  
University of Durham  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Essex  
University of Exeter  
University of Glasgow  
Heriot-Watt University  
University of Hertfordshire  
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine  
Royal Holloway  
The John Innes Centre  
University of Kent

King's College London  
Kingston University  
Lancaster University  
University of Leeds  
University of Leicester  
University of Liverpool  
London Metropolitan University  
Loughborough University  
University of Manchester  
University of Newcastle upon Tyne  
University of Nottingham  
The Open University  
University of Oxford  
London School of Pharmacy  
University of Plymouth  
Queen Mary, University of London  
Queen's University, Belfast  
University of Sheffield  
Sheffield Hallam University  
University of Southampton  
University of St Andrews  
University of Strathclyde  
University of Surrey  
University College London  
University of Warwick  
University of Westminster  
University of York

### ■ Charities & Other

Association of Medical Research Charities  
Breast Cancer Campaign  
Cancer Research UK  
Field Studies Council  
Prospect  
UK Resource Centre for Women in SET  
The Wellcome Trust

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Campaign for Science  
and Engineering