

# Annual Review

July 2014 to June 2015

The General Election in May was the focal point of another full year for CaSE.

The summer and autumn focused on evidence gathering and engagement with members, culminating in CaSE publishing three briefings in November 2014 on education and skills, investment, and scientific advice. These briefings outlined tangible actions the new government could take to support science and engineering. They were sent to all the political parties to inform manifesto development. This opened the door to engaging more closely with parties' central policy teams, BIS, Treasury, No 10, DfE and other parliamentarians. November also saw the CaSE commissioned report 'The Economic Significance of the UK Science Base' referenced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement as evidence of the value of public investment in research.

Throughout winter and spring our pre-election work was in full swing, publishing letters from the leaders of 10 political parties and 80 blog posts from prospective parliamentary candidates outlining how they would support science and engineering if elected. This work, along with detailed analysis of manifesto commitments, is bearing fruit post-election as we engage with new and returning MPs, newly formed Select Committees and the new Government. Another highlight was the 2014 Annual Lecture given by NASA Chief Scientist, Dr Ellen Stofan, at the Science Museum.

This year has also brought many changes to the organisation including long-standing Board members moving on. We have also welcomed a new Chair and Board members, as well as a number of new organisational members. Many challenges lie ahead for the sector, not least securing a good outcome for science and engineering in the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in November 2015.

It has been a privilege to lead CaSE in recent months and a pleasure to work with the team, members and the wider sector. In the coming months we will continue to work closely with the sector to ensure a strong, united, evidence-based message reaches the ears of Ministers as they decide the shape of funding for science and engineering for this term of Parliament. The strength of our voice relies on the breadth of our membership and we look forward to working with members, old and new, to ensure the sector's voice is heard in Government and Parliament.



## Year at a Glance

3 briefings published on investment, education, and scientific advice

10 letters received from political party leaders setting out election manifesto commitments

80 articles written by election candidates on how they would support science and engineering

Meetings with No 10 Downing Street, HM Treasury, Department for Education, Bank of England, and the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills

CaSE Annual Lecture given by NASA Chief Scientist

13 new organisational members joined

Professor Graeme Reid  
Chair

Naomi Weir  
Acting Director

# General Election 2015

## CaSE's Key Messages

■ Ahead of the General Election, CaSE published three policy briefings, detailing feasible and practical actions that could be taken in the next term of Parliament.

■ CaSE also published a booklet of ten key actions for the next Government to take to champion science and engineering. The actions included:

- Increasing investment in R&D over 10 years
- Reducing tax on sharing of R&D facilities
- Removing the limit on skilled workers coming to UK
- Ensuring primary science leaders access CPD
- Fully-funding the additional costs of STEM degrees
- Appointing a Chief Scientific Advisor in every department.

■ Following the election result, CaSE published a new briefing, 'Why Champion Science and Engineering?', outlining the evidence for how science and engineering supports:

- A strong economy
- High value jobs
- Healthier and happier lives.

The briefing was sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry, and sent to all MPs in the new Parliament.

3 policy briefings on investment, education, and scientific advice

10 key policy actions



## Developing Our Messages

CaSE's policy work has been shaped by engaging with our membership, and the wider science and engineering sector.

■ CaSE held a series of Opinion Forum events, to give members and collaborators the opportunity to feed into our briefings.

■ In March 2015, CaSE held a pre-election collaborator meeting, hosted by the Royal Statistical Society, to develop a coherent response to the upcoming General Election and Spending Review.

■ CaSE also organised two investment roundtables, hosted by Warwick Business School at the Shard, to shape our 'Why Champion Science and Engineering?' publication and foster a united voice for the sector. This brought members together with National Academies and funders, including HM Treasury, BIS, HEFCE, RCUK and Innovate UK.

110 individual meetings with members, collaborators, politicians, and the media

103 events and seminars

## Providing insight during the Election

■ CaSE sent our election briefings to the leader of every political party and asked them to set out their party's science and engineering policies in a letter to CaSE. We received 10 responses which were published on our website.

■ CaSE published analysis of each party's science and engineering policies based on manifesto commitments, media activity, speeches, and their letters to CaSE.

10 responses from political party leaders to CaSE's election letter

"I look forward to continuing to work with CaSE as we strive to achieve our shared goals for this key sector"

Prime Minister Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP,  
Response to CaSE election letter, May 2015

■ The CaSE cross-party debate provided an opportunity for the science spokespeople from the Conservatives, Labour, and the Liberal Democrats, to set out their party's policies on science and engineering. It was hosted by the Royal Society, and chaired by Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE.

■ CaSE wrote to all Prospective Parliamentary Candidates, with our election briefings, asking them to write for CaSE on why science and engineering is important. 80 articles were received, from across the political parties, and published on the CaSE website.

■ CaSE encouraged voters to contact their local candidates, and provided a simple online toolkit containing key messages and information.

■ CaSE also published articles by outgoing parliamentary science champions, including Andrew Miller and Sir Peter Luff, with advice for the new intake of MPs.

■ Following the result of the election, CaSE published responsive analysis of what the new Conservative Government could mean for science and engineering, as well as briefings on new MPs with an interest or background in STEM, and the new Ministerial briefs affecting science and engineering.



CaSE Science and Engineering Debate, January 2015, (L-R), Liam Byrne MP (Labour Shadow Science Minister), Dr Julian Huppert MP (Liberal Democrat science spokesperson), Dr Greg Clark MP (Conservative Science Minister), Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock MBE (Chair), and Dr Sarah Main (CaSE Director).

80 articles from election candidates published on the CaSE website

"It is my job to ensure any future Government continues to prioritise not just protecting science funding, but providing certainty for scientists and innovators"

Nicola Blackwood MP,  
Chair of the Commons S&T Select Committee  
Writing for the CaSE blog, April 2015

# Campaigns and Analysis

## Analysis and Briefings

■ CaSE published updated analysis of Government investment in R&D and the 2015 Summer Budget.

■ Following the publication of 'The Economic Significance of the UK Science Base' report in March 2014, CaSE held meetings with BIS, HM Treasury, and the Bank of England. The report was referenced in the Government's 2014 Autumn Statement.

■ CaSE published analysis of Ofsted pupil data on AS and A-levels, broken down by gender and subject, as well as responding to GCSE and A-level results. CaSE also published analysis of STEM degree course data from the Higher Education Statistics Authority.

■ In addition, CaSE published briefings on the Government's Productivity Plan, the 2015 Spring Budget, and VAT on shared R&D facilities, meeting with HM Treasury and HMRC about the latter to discuss its findings.

## Consultation Responses

■ CaSE responded to the Dowling Review of business-university collaboration. The final report, published in June 2015, referenced the issue of VAT on shared facilities, one of the key asks of CaSE's election briefing on investment.

■ CaSE also submitted consultation responses on the 2015 Summer Budget, Tier 2 immigration routes, capital investment, postgraduate loans, GCSE and A-level practical assessments, and the Nurse Review with the Research Councils.

## Other Key Campaigns

■ The Government's Science and Innovation Strategy, published in December 2014, committed to the core principles of the dual support system and the Haldane principle, two of the key asks in the CaSE election briefing on investment. The CaSE Acting Director also personally briefed the House of Commons S&T Committee on the strategy.

■ The Coalition Government dropped proposals to cut the Disabled Student Allowance, a decision recommended by CaSE in its 2014 report 'Improving Diversity in STEM'.

■ The Coalition Government also dropped proposals to restrict work visas for international students. CaSE commented widely on the issue in the media, including BBC News and The Guardian.

"A £1 billion real-terms shortfall in investment in the UK research base has accumulated over the course of this Parliament"

CaSE Budget Briefing, March 2015

"In 2003 1.37% of total government spending went on R&D. In 2013 this figure was 1.18%"

CaSE analysis of Office for National Statistics data, April 2015

"On average, state-funded secondary schools have just 70% of the equipment and consumables they need to teach science subjects"

CaSE consultation response to Ofqual inquiry into GCSE practicals, January 2015

"22 out of 34 professions on the shortage occupations list are in Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths disciplines"

CaSE consultation response to Migration Advisory Committee on Tier 2 immigration routes, June 2015

■ CaSE campaigned over Ofqual's decision to remove practical assessment from final A-level marks, and the CaSE Director appeared before the House of Commons S&T Committee on the issue.

■ CaSE also campaigned over the abolition of the position of Chief Scientific Adviser to the European Commission President.

■ The new Commons S&T Committee has implemented a new 'evidence check' approach, asking departments to set out the evidence used when producing policy, echoing recommendations made by CaSE in our scientific advice election briefing.



## Political Engagement

■ Over the last year CaSE met with the Science Minister, the Labour Shadow Science Minister, the Liberal Democrat science spokesperson, and the new Chair of the Commons Science & Technology Select Committee. CaSE also met with officials from across government, including 10 Downing Street, HM Treasury, BIS, HMRC and GO Science.

■ Following the General Election, CaSE wrote to all new MPs, Ministers, and selected peers, with our briefings, to introduce our work.

■ CaSE attended the three main party conferences and was on the panel for events at Conservative and Liberal Democrat party conference, organised by Prospect.

■ CaSE attended parliamentary and assembly science events in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast.



Parliamentary Links Day, June 2015, (L-R), Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, (President-Elect of the Royal Society), Jo Johnson MP (Universities & Science Minister), and Naomi Weir (CaSE Acting Director). Credit: Royal Society of Biology.

## CaSE in the Media

■ CaSE has been mentioned more than 100 times in the media over the last year, including in The Guardian, New Scientist, The Times, The Observer, Research Fortnight, Times Higher Education, City AM, Metro, and China Daily, as well as appearing on BBC News, Sky News, London Live, and Russia Today.

■ CaSE commented on a wide range of issues, including student visas, capital facility costs, A-level results, the Scottish referendum, the EU Chief Scientific Advisor role, and departmental R&D budget cuts.

■ In the run-up to the 2015 General Election, CaSE met with over 20 media contacts to further boost our impact.

*"Science spending should be 1% of GDP, say Greens"*

BBC News, 27th March 2015

*"If we cap immigration, the UK will lose its status as a global hub for science and engineering"*

City A.M., 15th June 2015

*"The UK needs to invest more in its scientists – especially the women"*

The Observer, 14th March 2015

## Communications

■ The CaSE website received over 133,000 visitors in the last year, up from 95,000 the year before. The month leading up to the 2015 General Election saw the highest web traffic the site has ever received.

■ The website also hosted a diverse range of guest blog posts from organisations such as Evidence Matters, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and the Institution of Civil Engineers. These posts, along with the resource section of the site, (which includes science policy job listings and open consultations), has helped drive even more traffic to the site.

**133,000** website visitors

■ Staff have given over 20 presentations on science policy and CaSE's work at events across the UK.

■ The CaSE monthly e-bulletin, giving a summary of all activities, is sent to 4,000 contacts, and CaSE communicates with its members and collaborators via other tailored messaging. Do get in touch if you would like to be kept up-to-date with our work.

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

[@sciencecampaign](https://twitter.com/sciencecampaign)

# Membership

## Organisational Membership

Membership underpins the vital work that CaSE carries out. We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support that our members provide us, through crucial funding as well as helping to shape our work. Our mandate to speak on behalf of the science and engineering community comes from the breadth of our membership.

The past 12 months have brought a lot of political change and we have been delighted to play a pivotal role in ensuring

that the voice of science and engineering has been heard throughout. This has involved drawing together people, views and evidence to support the case for science and engineering in the UK. Part of this has been to continue to reach out to new members, ensuring we have representation across all sectors. We are delighted to welcome the below new members over the past year.



## Organisational Members

### Companies

Airbus  
AstraZeneca  
BASF  
Crocotta R&D  
Electroimpact  
Facebook  
GlaxoSmithKline  
Google  
Johnson Matthey  
NETPark (North East Technology Park)  
Norwich Research Park  
Rolls-Royce  
Wiley-Blackwell  
1E Ltd

### Learned and Professional

BCS – The Chartered Institute of IT  
Biochemical Society  
BMVA – British Machine Vision Association  
British Ecological Society  
British Pharmacological Society  
British Society for Immunology  
Council of Professors and Heads of Computing  
Experimental Psychology Society  
Heads of Chemistry UK  
Institute of Physics

Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine

Institution of Chemical Engineers  
Institution of Mathematics and its Applications  
Institution of Mechanical Engineers  
London Mathematical Society  
National Farmers' Union  
Prospect  
Royal Astronomical Society  
Royal Pharmaceutical Society  
Royal Society of Chemistry  
Royal Statistical Society  
Society for Applied Microbiology  
Society for Experimental Biology  
Society for General Microbiology  
Royal Society of Biology  
The British Library  
The British Psychological Society  
The Genetics Society  
The Geological Society  
The Institution of Engineering & Technology  
The Physiological Society  
UK Deans of Science  
Zoological Society of London

### Universities and Institutes

Babraham Institute  
Brunel University

Canterbury Christ Church  
Cardiff University  
City & Islington College  
City 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  
Plymouth University  
Queen Mary, University of London  
Queen's University Belfast  
Royal Holloway  
Sheffield Hallam University  
The Open University  
University College London  
University of Aberdeen  
University of Bath  
University of Birmingham  
University of Bradford  
University of Brighton  
University of Bristol  
University of Cambridge

University of Dundee  
University of Durham  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Essex  
University of Exeter  
University of Hertfordshire  
University of Kent  
University of Leeds  
University of Leicester  
University of Liverpool  
University of Manchester  
University of Northampton  
University of Nottingham  
University of Oxford  
University of Sheffield  
University of Southampton  
University of St Andrews  
University of Strathclyde  
University of Surrey  
University of Warwick  
University of Westminster

### Charities

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

## Individual Membership

CaSE was founded almost 30 years ago when a group of concerned individuals joined together in a call to Government to 'Save British Science'. The landscape for science and engineering in the UK may have changed drastically over the decades but the need for a united voice still remains and individuals are crucial to continuing that. Today, our individual membership stands at just over 800.

We want to ensure the next generation of scientists and engineers continue to be united in their support for the sector so this year we are offering final year undergraduates one year's free membership of CaSE.

Please share this opportunity with your networks, you can visit our website for more information: <http://bit.do/CaSEstdnt>.

"CaSE creates important opportunities for its members to put forward positive messages about the importance of science and engineering. By engaging with the relevant ministers and other politicians, CaSE has developed into a very effective organisation for raising issues about the funding of STEM in the UK "

Professor Martin Barstow  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Leicester &  
President, Royal Astronomical Society

" We joined CaSE because we were impressed by their commitment to the importance of science and engineering to the UK's future prosperity, and their focus on the key points of research excellence and the support and skills needed to translate that research into social and economic impact "

Catherine Johns  
Innovation and Business Growth Director, NETPark

## CaSE Events

Membership provides individuals and organisations with priority booking to CaSE's highly regarded events, such as the CaSE 2014 Annual Lecture.

In front of a packed IMAX theatre at the Science Museum, the NASA Chief Scientist, Dr Ellen Stofan, took the audience through some of the extraordinary advances in science, technology and engineering now being worked on by scientists across the world driven by NASA's journey to Mars.

Other events included the CaSE science and engineering debate between the main political parties at the Royal Society, the pre-election collaborator meeting at the Royal Statistical Society, and two investment round-tables at the Shard.



CaSE Annual Lecture, November 2014, given by the NASA Chief Scientist, Dr Ellen Stofan, at the Science Museum IMAX, sponsored by the Science and Technology Facilities Council, the Royal Astronomical Society and University College London.

## Finances

CaSE is a lean organisation which operates with four members of staff and provides exceptional value for money for members. Our income was £230,000 and our expenditure £236,000 for 2014/15.

CaSE expenditure for 2014/15 —  
£236,000



# Our Organisation

## New Acting Director

Assistant Director Naomi Weir was appointed CaSE Acting Director in January 2015, covering for Dr Sarah Main, who is on maternity leave until the end of 2015.

## New Policy Advisor

Dr Martin Turner also joined CaSE as Policy Advisor in January, supporting the work of the Acting Director on a one-year contract. Dr Turner was formerly Senior Policy Advisor at the Association of Medical Research Charities.

## Interns

Our thanks to Estelle Cheuk, Henry Lovett, Jenni Toes, and Nancy Williams, for all their work as CaSE interns over the last year.

## New Chair and Board of Directors

Professor Graeme Reid was elected as the new Chair of the CaSE Board in November 2014. Also elected to the Board were Professor Jim Al-Khalili OBE, Nida Broughton, Conor McKechnie, and John Misselbrook.

They join current Board members Professor Sir Colin Blakemore, Aisling Burnand MBE, Dr Maria-Ana Cataluna, Dr Tom Crick, Professor Stephen Curry, James Lawford-Davies, Becky Purvis, Dr Emily Shuckburgh, and Dr Chris Tyler.

Standing down from the Board were Yvonne Baker, Professor Ian Haines, Dr Richard Davis, Dr Norma Morris, Professor Sandy Steacy, and the former Chair, Professor Hugh Griffiths, and we thank them for all their work and support of CaSE.

# Looking to the Future

In addition to work around the 2015 Spending Review and responding to consultations and media requests, we will continue our programme of proactive research, analysis and campaigning on key issues for the sector.

Already underway is a policy report on the impact of immigration policy on science and engineering and we will seek to inform debate in the 2016 Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish elections, and the EU referendum.

2016 marks 30 years since CaSE began as 'Save British Science' and there will be opportunities during the year to celebrate achievements over that period.

It will also provide an opportunity to look ahead and highlight the importance of strategic, long-term investment and policies to support a thriving science and engineering sector that will underpin UK success in decades to come.



*CaSE staff, June 2015, (L-R), Naomi Weir (Acting Director), Dr Martin Turner (Policy Advisor), Nick Hall (Operations and Communications Manager), and Jenni Lacey (Membership Engagement and Development Manager).*