

DCMS Science and Research Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Background

Following discussions with the Government Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor John Beddington, the DCMS Permanent Secretary, Jonathan Stephens, appointed Anita Charlesworth as Chief Analyst and Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) to the Department in September 2008.

The first task for the CSA was to set up a Science and Research Advisory Committee (SRAC) in line with Dr Michael Dixon's CSA Report to provide advice and input to cover the range of scientific, engineering and technology issues covered by DCMS' remit.

"Recommendation 7: In recognition of the wide range of scientific issues that relate to DCMS policy areas and the activities of its sponsored bodies, the CSA should appoint a Science Advisory Committee (using expertise from academia, industry and the Department's NDPBs) to work with them in advancing a number of these recommendations. The House of Commons Select Committee report on Scientific Advice, Risk and Evidence Based Policy Making recommends this in its report (recommendation 22) and the Chief Scientific Advisers' Committee is to review the use of such committees across government during the course of this year.

Recommendation 8: The CSA and the appointed Science and Research Advisory Committee should play a major role in horizon scanning within the Department and ensure that this links into similar processes undertaken within the Department's sponsored bodies."

This document sets out the remit for the SRAC and its membership.

Objective of a Scientific and Research Advisory Committee

The principal purposes of the Scientific and Research Advisory Committee will be to:

- provide Ministers, senior DCMS officials and, through the DCMS Advisory board, the Department's sponsored bodies with advice on the implications of developments in science and technology for the department's policies and priorities
- identify the potential impact of wider government policy on science in the DCMS sectors
- identify generic scientific issues which will have an impact across several DCMS sectors and share practice

Areas covered

DCMS' portfolio covers a wide range of areas which rely upon scientific, engineering and technology expertise. The table below outlines the different areas of need.

<i>Area of need</i>	<i>Reason</i>
Engineering (Electronic, Civil)	Digital switchover, Olympics, capital projects, built environment
Health and Wellbeing	Sports sector, Olympics, CABE, Libraries
Digital technology	Strategic issue, media and cultural industries, engagement
Climate Change/Sustainability	Strategic issue, Olympics, CABE
Public understanding of science	Strategic issue, museums, libraries, media
Heritage, archaeology and Conservation Science	Heritage, museums, archives
Ecology and veterinary	Royal Parks, natural heritage/history, tourism
Gambling/Alcohol addiction	Gambling and Alcohol Licensing
Social Science	Strategic capability: Public policy development

Remit of the Science and Research Advisory Committee

The Science and Research Advisory Committee will:

1. advise on the resources and stewardship of science, engineering and technology under the DCMS remit
2. advise on the quality and value of science and engineering undertaken under the DCMS remit
3. recommendations to the DCMS advisory board on science, technology and engineering priorities
4. ad hoc advice on high profile scientific and engineering issues affecting DCMS policy areas
5. review major DCMS programmes to ensure relevant scientific and engineering issues are addressed
6. make public statements on high profile science and engineering issues relevant to our sectors
7. advise on a cultural, media and sports science and technology strategy
8. draft a triennial report focused on the key scientific and engineering issues facing DCMS policy areas including horizon-scanning

Approach of the Science and Research Advisory Committee

The Science and Research Advisory Committee (SRAC) will meet 2 times a year to cover high level cross-cutting issues which they will agree. It will be launched in October 2009. The SRAC will give an annual presentation to the DCMS Advisory Board, and present a report on Science, Technology and Engineering issues to the Secretary of State every 3 years. A set of subject-specific, temporary working groups will be set up to address the key issues identified by the SRAC. Possible topics for the working groups include:

- Engineering & capital projects
- Health & Wellbeing
- Public understanding of science & technology
- Heritage, archaeology & conservation science and sustainability
- Funding research and science in our sectors
- New technology in culture, media and sport
- Social science in culture, media and sport policy

Working groups - approach

Permanent members of the SRAC will be able to propose a working group topic which needs to be agreed by the Chair and the CSA to be set up.

The aim of the working groups will be to articulate the DCMS stance on key issues making recommendations to the SRAC any actions for DCMS to address (e.g. commissioning research, consultations, legislation etc). This includes producing a focused short report within an agreed timescale on the issue, drawing on a wide range of expertise.

The working group will be led by the nominee or an SRAC member nominated by the Chair in consultation with the SRAC. The working groups will consist of other relevant members of the SRAC and experts drawn from DCMS NDPBs, academic organisations and wider groups.

Membership of the Science and Research Advisory Committee

Permanent Members

<i>Who</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Reason</i>
Dr Michael Dixon	Director	Natural History Museum	Chair
Anita Charlesworth	Director, Evidence and Analysis	Department for Culture, Media and Sport	Strategic overview
Dr David Saunders	Keeper, Department of Conservation and Scientific Research	British Museum	Conservation; Public understanding of science; science funding; national perspective
Professor May Cassar	Director, Centre for Sustainable Heritage	Bartlett School of Graduate Studies, University College London	Conservation; public understanding of science; Sustainability
Stephen Hackney	Head of Conservation Science	Tate	Conservation
Richard Boulderstone	Director, eStrategy	British Library	Conservation, Public understanding of science, Digital issues
Chris Scull	Research Director	English Heritage	Heritage and Conservation, Materials Science
Nancy Bell	Head of Collection Care	The National Archives	Conservation, Public understanding of science
Sarah Staniforth	Historic Properties Director	The National Trust	Heritage and Conservation
Peter Keen	Director of Performance	UK Sport	Sports Sciences
Dr Ken van Someren	Director of Science	English Institute of Sport	Sport and Health
Dr Nigel Reeve	Head of Ecology	The Royal Parks	Ecology
Kim Shillinglaw	BBC Commissioning editor, Science and Natural History	BBC	Digital media technology
Dr Anthony Whitehead	Joint Head of Science in Government	Government Office for Science	Strategic issues
Professor Rick Rylance	Chief Executive	Arts and Humanities Research Council	Strategic issues

Dr Beatriz Garcia	Director	Impacts 08 - The Liverpool Model	Regeneration, Olympics
Lorna Walker	Director	Lorna Walker Consulting Ltd	Sustainability, Health and wellbeing
Professor Michael Thorne	Vice Chancellor	Anglia Ruskin University	Research links, Collaboration, Skills

External fixed term members

The SRAC membership will be augmented by other external experts appointed for a fixed term to cover specific issues. The areas needing further external appointments to the Committee are as follows:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Reason</i>
Civil engineering	Olympics
Alcohol/gambling addiction	Gambling and alcohol licensing
Sports science	Sports science, doping
Technology	New technology
Social science	Social policy development