

## PRIME MINISTER'S COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (CST)

1 and 2 July 2021: Meeting Summary

Note: This meeting was held via video conference with a limited group of attendees participating in person on Day 1 from Number 10 Downing Street.

## Attendees:

Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, Patrick Vallance; John Browne; Fiona Murray; Saul Klein; Julia Black; Ottoline Leyser; David Cannadine (Day 1); Chris Bishop; Philip Bond; Muffy Calder; Suranga Chandratillake; Jim Hall; Anne Johnson; Jim McDonald; Dervilla Mitchell; Max Lu; Paul Newman; Brooke Rogers; Nick Stern; Adrian Smith; Paul Stein; Susannah Storey; Josh Fleming (Day 2); Phil Duffy (Day 1); Jo Shanmugalingam.

**Apologies:** Charles Roxburgh

## **Guests:**

Emily Beynon, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister; Zachary Lawton, Policy Unit, Number 10; James Phillips, Special Adviser, Number 10; Mike Webb, Special Adviser, Number 10; Andrew McCosh, Cabinet Office; Kirsty Sharp, Chief of Staff for Andrew McCosh; Professor Charlotte Watts, Chief Scientific Adviser for the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO); Dr Julia Kemp, Deputy Director of Research, FCDO.

## Day 1

- The Prime Minister set out plans to put science at the heart of government, drive
  economic prosperity and address challenges such as achieving net zero carbon
  emissions and levelling up economic growth across the UK. Members offered advice
  on how to harness research to boost innovation and growth and discussed
  opportunities to strengthen innovation through a focus on people, finance,
  infrastructure and demand.
- 2. Members received an update on the new National Science and Technology Committee and the establishment of an Office for Science and Technology Strategy and discussed how to strengthen UK's position as a science superpower.
- 3. Members received an update on current priorities for HM Treasury, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

- 4. Professor Charlotte Watts, Chief Scientific Adviser at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) gave a presentation on priorities for science and technology for international development. Members discussed the importance of understanding social and economic context for successful application of technologies and how climate and development goals are interlinked. Members highlighted the importance of funding stability for international research partnerships.
- 5. CST member, Professor Chris Bishop, gave a presentation on how developments in deep learning are leading to disruption of molecular simulation. Members discussed the implications for a range of sectors and the capability needed to exploit the potential opportunities.
- Members discussed future topics and agreed to develop advice on private sector investment in innovation and to review impact of advice on taking a systems approach to net zero.

CST Secretariat July 2021