

SCIENCE IN PARLIAMENT sip

The Journal of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.

The Committee is an Associate Parliamentary Group of members of both Houses of Parliament and British members of the European Parliament, representatives of scientific and technical institutions, industrial organisations and universities.



Science in Parliament has two main objectives:

1. to inform the scientific and industrial communities of activities within Parliament of a scientific nature and of the progress of relevant legislation;
2. to keep Members of Parliament abreast of scientific affairs.



Andrew Miller MP
Chairman, Parliamentary
and Scientific
Committee

I wish to record from the outset the gratitude of the readers of SiP to the valuable contribution made by Dr Brian Iddon over a five year period in the last session, thus ensuring the success of the journal which has become an important contribution to the better understanding of science and engineering in Parliament and elsewhere. As both science and engineering are widely seen as one of the main drivers very likely to be important in economic recovery, so the readers of SiP will be seeking information and advice on increasingly relevant but potentially complex STEM related issues across the political spectrum.

I am also particularly pleased to be able to report that following the elections for the posts of the Select Committee Chairs on Wednesday 9 June, I was elected by the House to be the Chair of the Science and Technology Committee. The Committee can now start its work as the remaining members have recently been nominated by the House. Please see the report from the HoC Select Committee on S&T in this issue for further details. At the time of writing we hadn't been fully constituted to enable us to agree a formal programme but I would like to see the Committee focussing attention on helping to maintain the strength of the UK's science base and also improving public understanding of some of the challenging scientific issues facing us today. As this is the first Parliament where Select Committee Chairs have been elected rather than appointed, this is also of particular significance for and recognition of the important contribution made by the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and this journal in particular.

The journal brings together a rich mixture of contributions from Parliamentarians with important views on the role of Science in Parliament, with the leaders of STEM based organisations on the other, combined with summary reports on the Discussions and Debates held on the Parliamentary Estate and which are open to all of our 250 Member Organisations. It is a unique and valuable resource, which is free to publish the views of scientists, engineers and those with an interest and need for scientific information, independently of political persuasion, but recognising the vital need and opportunity to bring all these aspects together under one cover.

I look forward to combining these ongoing interests with my new duties which include a full spectrum of the Government's roles and responsibilities for STEM.

After a very difficult time in hospital, readers will be greatly relieved to learn that Mrs Annabel Lloyd is now recovering at home from a serious operation and hopes to be back with us sometime within the next few months.

This issue is devoted primarily to the assessment of and response to risk and the distinction between risk and hazard.

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Professor Jane Plant (who is married to Professor Peter Simpson, Scientific Secretary of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee) agreed to pay for the front cover of Science in Parliament for advertising her book *Eating for Better Health*, to be published in August, when a prior sponsor withdrew at short notice.

