

# Cross-Party Group on Science and Technology

Wednesday 12 November 2025 (1800 – 2000)

Minute

Present

MSPs

Clare Adamson MSP (CA); Patrick Harvie MSP (PH)

Non-MSP Group Members

Professor Martin Weides (MW)  
Stewart Miller (SM)  
Professor Ian Strachan (IS)  
Dr Kingsley Omeihe (KO)  
Professor Martyn Pickersgill (MP)  
Thomas Wild (TW)  
Professor Fiona McNeill (FM)  
Alexander Browne (AB)  
Prof Louise Horsfall (LH)  
Alastair MacGregor (AM)  
Dr Liz Lakin (LL)  
Derek Young (DY)  
Carolyne Thomson (CT)  
Tom Addison (TA)  
Stuart Farmer (SF)  
Rory MacDonald (RM)  
Fraser Gillan (FG)

## 1. Welcome and apologies

- CPG Convenor, Clare Adamson, welcomed the group to this meeting of the Cross-party group on Science and Technology and noted that this meeting would include the AGM and election of Convenor, Deputy Convenor and Secretariat.
- Apologies: Thomas Wild, Morven Chisholm, David Townsend, Kathleen Hill

## 2. AGM

- Election of CPG Convenor, Deputy Convenor, and Secretariat
- Convenor – Clare Adamson  
Proposed by Derek Young (IOP) & Fiona McNeill (University of Edinburgh)
- Deputy Convenor – Patrick Harvie  
Proposed by Clare Adamson & seconded by Derek Young (IOP)
- Secretariat – The Royal Society of Edinburgh  
Proposed by Clare Adamson and seconded by Derek Young (IOP)

## 2. A manifesto for science and technology

- The Convenor (CA) chaired the main part of the session to discuss proposals for a “manifesto for science and technology” to gather the group’s thoughts on key issues for the sector ahead of May 2026. CA noted that any publication by the group would have no formal link to the Scottish Parliament and would be a representation of individuals views only and highlight issues that have been covered by the group over this parliamentary session.
- MW proposed investment in Scotland’s critical technologies supercluster to unlock opportunities in health, energy, AI, space, telecommunications and more and noted that increased investment in The Critical Technologies Nanofabrication Facility (CTNF) would help turn research into commercial success.
- SM proposed establishing ‘Robotics Scotland’ as a national economic agency to coordinate robotics strategy, drive manufacturing growth, and accelerate robotics technology adoption across our economy.
- IS proposed launching a review of the progress made over the last decade in the implementation of the Making Maths Count recommendations – which cut across all of society – with the aim of making Scotland a Maths positive nation.
- KO highlighted the importance of robust national frameworks combined with strong international collaboration if Scotland is to compete effectively and responsibly in this rapidly evolving field. This proposal included a call to establish an AI strategy for public good.
- MP called upon strategy developers and innovation agencies to strengthen inclusive decision-making and strategic input from social scientists and ethicists to explore ways to innovate responsibly to propel science and technology that delivers even more for Scotland and its people.

- FG spoke on behalf of Thomas Wild's proposal to invest in a refresh of the STEM education and training strategy.
- FM argued we need to do more to tackle the challenge of embedding ethical and information literacy in the curriculum, building the cognitive, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills that will be so essential in the workplaces and societies of the future.
- The Convenor noted the proposal by David Townsend for greater exploration of opportunities in geothermal energy and the group agreed this was important alongside a commitment to exploring opportunities across the broad spectrum of possible renewable energy generation sources to improve energy security and affordability.
- AB emphasised the need for continued investment in basic science – financial, politics, and cultural – so that the lab curiosities of today provide a valuable dividend for Scotland tomorrow. The group noted that this proposal needed to develop concrete steps on how to achieve this beyond the aspiration.
- LH called for stronger monitoring and surveillance, improved wastewater treatment and better stakeholder awareness to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at the source, protecting both public health and the natural resources at the heart of our economy and communities.
- The Convenor noted proposals from Kathleen Hill on supporting teachers to continue careers in teaching and fund extra-curricular clubs and activities in schools to develop learners and encourage self-teaching. The group agreed these should be included and suggested merging a few of the proposals on education and training.
- AM highlighted the demand for a refresh in the national STEM education, training, and learning strategy to ensure it meets the needs of learners, educators, and employers in the years ahead.
- LL called for greater financial investment and a renewed long-term commitment to continued teacher education and development, alongside workload expectations.
- DY raised awareness for the crucial role that Physics will play in Scotland's just transition via clean energy, securing jobs, and energy security. The discussion noted that this proposal should be broadened to include other subjects beyond physics.
- TA discussed the importance of facing up to the health impacts of climate change, noting that we need to enhance early warning systems related to the health impacts of climate change, prioritise green space to promote physical activity and climate mitigation, support employers and prioritise strategic

research and invest in research that identifies and protects the most vulnerable.

### 3. Future business for discussion

- Dr King Omeihe would like to present to the group on a recent “trust in AI” paper he co-authored, which was circulated to the group at the last meeting. King was to discuss the paper and its findings with Carlyne Thomson ahead of this.

### 4. AOB.

- Convenor Clare Adamson reminded CPG members to send theme suggestions for future meetings to the Secretariat (RSE) and thanked the speakers and attendees.
- It was noted that this may be the last meeting before the Scottish Parliament election in May 2026 and thanks was given to all members for their contributions over this parliamentary session.