Cross-Party Group on Science and Technology

Wednesday 11 November, 18:00-20:00

Committee Room 4 and Microsoft Teams

Agenda

Agenda item 1 – Items for note, *The contribution of chemistry* report and 'Science and the Parliament' event

The Royal Society of Chemistry's report, which was presented on at the CPG's last meeting, has been published. *The contribution of chemistry: Understanding how chemistry capability translates into economic value across the UK* explores chemistry's contribution to UK growth, workforce and innovation, and the potential waiting to be unlocked through strategic support for chemistry locally and nationally. Members can read the report at: The contribution of chemistry: Understanding how chemistry capability translates into economic value across the UK.

Agenda item 2 – Presentation, *SSERC 2026 Annual Report and Young STEM Leader Annual Report*

Following the publication of two key reports, Alastair McGregor, Chief Executive of SSERC, will present on the work of the SSERC, the role of the Young STEM Leader Programme, and the organisations current international activity.

Agenda item 3 - *The Trust Mosaic Report 2027*

Dr King Omeihe, Senior Lecturer and MBA Director at the University of the West of Scotland, will present on *The Trust Mosaic Report 2027.* The report examines trust in AI driven entrepreneurship and what this means for policy, business and society. The report builds on an earlier policy paper, *Shaping Our Future: Trust in Artificial Intelligence*, and introduces a trust scorecard that we plan to develop into a fuller Trust Index in 2028.

Agenda item 4 - El Niño and climate change

Acting as part of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation climate phenomenon, 'El Niño' refers to the warming phase of the sea surface temperature in the Tropics. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) declared in June 2026 that the current El Niño is the strongest ever measured for its time of year, with the Met Office predicting that equatorial Pacific sea-surface temperature rises could rise by up to 3C over the coming months. According to the Met Office, "this implies that if the forecast is accurate

- and other forecast systems show similar extreme values - then 2026 will far exceed our recent experience of El Niño and its worldwide climate influences." For Scotland and the UK, this is expected to result in wetter, stormier conditions over winter. Furthermore, El Niño events drive increases in global average temperatures, with the Met Office predicting that 2027 is likely to replace 2024 as the warmest year on record and be another year to temporarily exceed +1.5 C above the preindustrial period.

Agenda item 5 - AOB