Cross-Party Group on Science and Technology

Wednesday 11 November, 18:00-20:00

Minute

Present

MSPs

Clare Adamson MSP
Patrick Harvie MSP
Emma Roddick MSP
David Kirkwood MSP
Andrew Baxter MSP
Joe Fagan MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Martyn Pickersgill
Kathleen Hill
Chris Dent
Sonja Vernes
Pankaj Pankaj
Alastair McGregor
Fiona McNeill
Athina Frantzana
Jacqui Mcelhiney
Mridula Chakraborty
Thomas Wild
King Omeihe
Sylvia McKay
Iain Hunter
Ijeoma Okpanum
Allan Colquhoun
Byron Hyde
Stuart Farmer
Robert Mcgeachy
Niall Sommerville
Louise Horsfall
Loraine Duncan
Rebecca Simpson
Daria Tuhtar
Rory MacDonald

Apologies

Jenny Young MSP
Calum Kerr MSP
Tierney Sharp
Fred Young
Keith Robson
Ian Wall
Jeremy Darot

Agenda item 1 - Item for note, *The contribution of chemistry* report

The CPG noted the publication of The Royal Society of Chemistry's report, *The contribution of chemistry: Understanding how chemistry capability translates into economic value across the UK.* 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*

The CPG received a presentation from SSERC on its role and work, as well as the findings from its most recent annual report and Young STEM Leader Annual Report.

Questions from members focused on the emergence of AI and its impact on SSERC's work, SSERC's work with partners in China, and opportunities for collaboration between SSERC and other organisations. A call was issued to interested members to contact SSERC regarding work placements for young people.

Agenda item 3 - *The Trust Mosaic Report 2027*

The CPG received a presentation on *The Trust Mosaic Report 2027,* focussing the increasing use of AI across businesses and the public's trust in AI. International comparisons across Europe and Africa on the use of, and trust in, AI were given, as well as discussions of a framework for trust in AI and recommendations for policymakers.

Questions from members focussed on the distinction between good and bad use of AI across the economy, how this impacts trust, and the need for accountability of AI systems to ensure it can be used safely.

Agenda item 4 - Food Safety Science

The CPG received a presentation from Food Standards Scotland on its role in ensuring food safety and preventing foodborne illnesses. Issues on the fragmented nature of laboratory governance and the risk of reduced funding in these facilities were highlighted as key risks.

Questions from members focussed on challenges presented by government plans to reform health agencies and local authorities, food fraud, and collaboration with other national food standards agencies.

Agenda item 5 - El Niño and climate change

For the next CPG meeting, members were asked to consider what presentations could be given that related to El Niño and climate change.

Agenda item 6 - AOB

There was no other business.