The Science and Technology Committee

The Science and Technology Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Office of Science and Technology and its associated public bodies.

Current membership

Dr Ian Gibson MP (Labour, Norwich North) (Chairman)
Paul Farrelly MP (Labour, Newcastle-under-Lyme)¹
Dr Evan Harris MP (Liberal Democrat, Oxford West & Abingdon)²
Kate Hoey MP (Labour, Vauxhall)³
Dr Brian Iddon MP (Labour, Bolton South East)
Mr Robert Key MP (Conservative, Salisbury)
Mr Tony McWalter MP (Labour, Hemel Hempstead)
Dr Andrew Murrison MP (Conservative, Westbury)
Geraldine Smith MP (Labour, Morecambe and Lunesdale)
Bob Spink MP (Conservative, Castle Point)
Dr Desmond Turner MP (Labour, Brighton Kemptown)

The following members were also a member of the Committee during the Parliament:

Mr Parmjit Dhanda MP (Labour, Gloucester)⁴
Mr Tom Harris MP (Labour, Glasgow Cathcart)⁵
Mr David Heath MP (Liberal Democrat, Somerton and Frome)⁶
Mr Mark Hoban MP (Conservative, Fareham)⁷

Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by the Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/science_and_technology_committee.cfm. A list of reports from the Committee in the present Parliament is included at the back of this volume.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are: Chris Shaw (Clerk), Emily Commander (Second Clerk), Alun Roberts (Committee Specialist), Hayaatun Sillem (Committee Specialist), Ana Ferreira (Committee Assistant), Robert Long (Senior Office Clerk), and Christine McGrane (Committee Secretary).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to: The Clerk of the Science and Technology Committee, Committee Office, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general inquiries is: 020 7219 2793/2794; the Committee's e-mail address is: scitechcom@parliament.uk.

¹ Appointed 15 December 2003
² Appointed 10 November 2003
³ Appointed 2 March 2004
⁴ Appointed on 12 November 2001 and discharged on 15 December 2003
⁵ Appointed on 12 November 2001 and discharged on 2 March 2004
⁶ Appointed on 12 November 2001 and discharged on 10 November 2003
⁷ Appointed on 12 November 2001 and discharged on 27 January 2003
Proceedings of the Committee

Wednesday 13 November 2002

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Tony McWalter
Dr Andrew Murrison
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered, That Professor Derek Burke, Professor Ken Pounds and Professor John Enderby be appointed as Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in its inquiry into international collaboration.— (The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee do visit Ireland in connection with its inquiry into international collaboration.

Ordered, That the Chairman do seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the said visit.

Resolved, That the Committee do seek a memorandum from the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority on its plans for future work at Culham and its proposals for fusion research in the UK.— (The Chairman.)

Towards a Non-Carbon Fuel Economy: Research, Development and Demonstration: Dr Sue Ion, Director of Technology and Operations, British Nuclear Fuels Plc, Mr Adrian Ham, Chief Executive, British Nuclear Industry Forum, and Mr Kevin Routledge, Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Consultancy Director, National Nuclear Company Ltd, were examined.

Ms Bryony Worthington, Energy Campaigner, Friends of the Earth, and Dr Doug Parr, Chief Scientist, Greenpeace, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 20 November at Four o’clock.]
Wednesday 20 November 2002

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Mr Mark Hoban
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Tony McWalter

Dr Andrew Murrison
Geraldine Smith
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do visit Brussels in connection with the above inquiry.
— (The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee do defer its decision to seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with its visit to Ireland to the next financial year. — (The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee do hold an informal meeting with the Chief Scientific Adviser and other bioterrorism experts on the subject of chemical and biological terrorism. — (The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee’s inquiry into international collaboration be entitled UK Science and Europe: Value for Money? — (The Chairman.)

Towards a Non-Carbon Fuel Economy: Mr Lewis Dale, Regulatory Strategy Manager, National Grid Company, Mr John Scott, Technical Director, OFGEM, and Mr Robin MacLaren, Managing Director of Transmission & Distribution, Scottish Power, were examined.

Mr Mike Kay, Head of Network Transformation Unit, United Utilities, Professor David Strong, Managing Director, Energy Division, Building Research Establishment, Mr Don Spearman, Product Director, Vent-Axia, and Mr Stephen Wright, Chief Executive, Gusto Homes, were examined.

Mr Bernard Bulkin, Chief Scientist, BP, Mr John Mumford, Director, BP Oil; Dr Martin Booth, Manager Fuels Business Group, Shell Global Solutions (UK); and Mr Stewart Kempstell, Fuels Development Manager, Shell International Petroleum Company Limited, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 December at a quarter past Four o’clock]
Wednesday 4 December 2002

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Mark Hoban
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Tony McWalter

Dr Andrew Murrison
Geraldine Smith
Bob Spink

The Committee deliberated.

The Work of the Medical Research Council: Professor Sir George Radda, Chief Executive, and Mrs Jane Lee, Director of Corporate Affairs, Medical Research Council, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 December at Four o’clock.

Wednesday 11 December 2002

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Mark Hoban
Mr Tony McWalter

Dr Andrew Murrison
Bob Spink

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered, That the Committee publish the Government’s Response to the Government funding of the Learned Societies Report as an appendix to the Committee’s First Special Report of Session 2002-03.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That responses from the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Engineering to the Government Funding of the Learned Societies Report also be appended to the Report.—(The Chairman.)

Draft Report (Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Resolved, That the Committee do hold an informal meeting with the BioIndustry Association on 30 January 2003 for a discussion on current issues in the bioindustry sector.—(The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee do seek a memorandum from the Office of Science and Technology on the implications of the changes in the expenditure of the OST in the Winter Supplementary Estimates.—(The Chairman.)

Science Budget Allocations: Lord Sainsbury of Turville, Minister for Science and Innovation, Department of Trade and Industry, and Dr John Taylor, Director General of the Research Councils, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 December at Four o’clock.

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Wednesday 18 December 2002

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Mr Tom Harris
Mr David Heath
Mr Mark Hoban
Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Andrew Murrison
Geraldine Smith
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do invite the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to give oral evidence to the Committee on Wednesday 26 March.—(The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee do invite the Secretary of State for Education and Skills to give oral evidence to the Committee, following the publication of the Higher Education Strategy.—(The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee do seek a memorandum from the Department of Trade and Industry, following the evidence session of 11 December with Lord Sainsbury of Turville.—(The Chairman.)

[Adjourned till Wednesday 15 January at Four o’clock.
Wednesday 15 January 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Mr Tom Harris
Mr David Heath
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Tony McWalter

Dr Andrew Murray
Geraldine Smith
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered, That the Committee publish the Government’s Response to the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts: a Follow-Up Report as an appendix to the Committee’s Second Special Report of Session 2002-03.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That the Response from NESTA to The National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts: A Follow-Up Report, also be appended to the Report.—(The Chairman.)

Ordered, That the Committee publish the Government’s Response to the Office of Science and Technology: Scrutiny Report 2002 as an appendix to the Committee’s Third Special Report of 2002-03.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Resolved, That Dr Desmond Turner and Bob Spink do represent the Committee on the Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group’s visit to Egypt in April.—(The Chairman.)

Resolved, That Mr Tom Harris do represent the Committee at the conference on cannabis in Stockholm on 7 March, subject to availability of funds.—(The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee do visit Dublin in connection with its inquiry into UK Science and Europe: Value for Money?

Resolved, That the Committee do visit the Defence and Technology Laboratory, Porton Down and the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research (CAMR) in Wiltshire in connection with its inquiry into the scientific response to terrorism, on Wednesday 26th February.
Resolved, That the Committee do visit the United States in connection with its inquiry into the scientific response to terrorism.

Ordered, That the Chairman do seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the said visit.

Resolved, That the Committee do visit Swindon in connection with its scrutiny of the Research Councils and Rutherford Appleton Laboratory in Oxfordshire in connection with the UK Science and Europe: Value for Money? inquiry.

Resolved, That the Committee do inquire into light pollution and astronomy.— (The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee do inquire into forensic science.— (The Chairman.)

Draft Report (Annual Report 2002), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.


[Adjourned till Wednesday 22 January at Four o’clock.

Wednesday 22 January 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair
Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Mr Tom Harris
Mr David Heath
Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Tony McWalter
Dr Andrew Murrison
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered, That Professor Alastair Hay and Professor William Keevil be appointed as Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in its inquiry into the scientific response to terrorism.— (The Chairman.)
ESRC Introductory Session: Professor Ian Diamond, Chief Executive, Economic and Social Research Council, was examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 29 January at Four o'clock.

Wednesday 29 January 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Tom Harris                  Dr Andrew Murrison
Dr Brian Iddon                 Bob Spink
Mr Robert Key                  Dr Desmond Turner
Mr Tony McWalter

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do meet for an informal briefing with STERIS on 25 February.— (The Chairman.)

Director General Innovation, DTI: Introductory Session: Mr David Hughes, Director General Innovation, and Dr Alistair Keddie, Director, Technical Innovation and Sustainable Development, Department of Trade and Industry, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 3 February at Four o'clock.
Wednesday 5 February 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key

Geraldine Smith
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee take evidence from the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry in a joint session on 26 March, on the research funding and knowledge transfer aspects of the Higher Education White Paper.

UK Science and Europe: Dr Peter Cotgreave, Director, and Professor Michael Trevan, Member of the Executive Committee, Save British Science, were examined.

Professor Mike Beveridge, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research & Enterprise), University of Plymouth, Professor Gerry Gilmore, Professor of Experimental Philosophy, Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge University, Professor John Turner, Director of UniSdirect, University of Surrey, and Dr Douglas Robertson, Director of Business Development, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, were examined.

Professor Ebrahim Mamdani, Intelligent and Interactive Systems Research Group, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Imperial College, Professor Ian W. Marshall, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University College London, and Professor Martyn Thomas, Fellow and Member of IT Sector Panel, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12 February at Four o’clock]
Wednesday 12 February 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr David Heath
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter

Dr Andrew Murrison
Geraldine Smith
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered, That the Committee publish the Government’s Response to the Short Term Contracts Report as an appendix to the Committee’s Fourth Special Report of Session 2002-03.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Resolved, That the proposed visit to Dublin on 17/18 March be cancelled.

Ordered, That Professor Roy Anderson be appointed as Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee with its inquiry into the scientific response to terrorism.

UK Science and Europe: Dr Tim Bradshaw, Senior Policy Adviser, Technology and Innovation, Confederation of British Industry, Mr John Murphy, Head of University Partnerships, BAE Systems, Dr Oonagh Kinsman, European Framework and Contracts Manager, GlaxoSmithKline, and Dr Philip Wright, Director, Science and Technology, Association for the British Pharmaceutical Industry, were examined.

Mr Nick Peacock, Rolls Royce Plc, Professor Richard Friend, Chief Scientist, Cambridge Display Technology, and Dr Robert Leslie, British Nuclear Fuels Limited, were examined.

Professor Richard Clegg, Director of Science, Mr Adrian Bull, Head of Technology Services, and Dr Alan Hooper, Chief Scientific Adviser, NIREX, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 5 March at Four o’clock.]
Wednesday 5 March 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda    Mr Tony McWalter
Mr Tom Harris        Dr Andrew Murison
Mr David Heath       Geraldine Smith
Dr Brian Iddon       Bob Spink
Mr Robert Key        Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That Mr Robert Key and Dr Desmond Turner do represent the Committee at the 2003 EUREKA Inter-Parliamentary conference in Copenhagen.

Scientific Response to Terrorism: Professor Pete Borriello, Director of Public Health Laboratory, Public Health Laboratory Service, Dr Charles Penn, Director of Research, Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research; Mr Neil McGoll, Head, Emergency Response Group, National Radiological Protection Board, and Professor Gary Coleman, Executive Director, National Focus for Chemical Incidents, were examined.

Dr Vivienne Nathanson, Head of Professional Activities, British Medical Association, Dr Maureen Baker, Honorary Secretary, Royal College of General Practitioners, and Dr Nicholas Beeching, British Infection Society and Royal College of Physicians, were examined.

Mr Trevor Campbell Davis, Chief Executive, Whittington NHS Trust, Mr Peter Bradley, Chair, Operations Committee, Ambulance Service Association and Chief Executive, London Ambulance Service, and Mr John Harrop, Senior General Manager, Critical Care and Support Service, Salford Royal Hospital Trust, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12 March at Four o’clock.]
Wednesday 12 March 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Mr David Heath
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key

Mr Tony McWalter
Geraldine Smith
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

*Ordered*, That the Committee publish the Government’s Response to the PPARC Report as an appendix to the Committee’s Fifth Special Report of Session 2002-03.

*Ordered*, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

*Resolved*, That the Committee do seek a memorandum from OST on the changes to the Departmental Expenditure Limits affecting OST as set out in the Spring Supplementary Estimates.

Draft Report, (The Work of the Medical Research Council), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report of the Science and Technology Committee, Session 2002-03 (HC 132, pg 35).*

[Adjourned till Wednesday 19 March at Four o’clock.]
Wednesday 19 March 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter

Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do attend an informal meeting with the International Committee of the Red Cross.—(The Chairman.)

Resolved, That the Committee do attend a briefing to be given by Sir Gareth Roberts on his RAE proposals.—(The Chairman.)

Toward a Non-Carbon Fuel Economy: Mr Brian Wilson, a Member of the House, Minister for Energy and Construction, and Professor Sir David King, Government Chief Scientific Adviser, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 26 March at Four o’clock.

Wednesday 26 March 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Mr Tom Harris
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter

Dr Andrew Murray
Geraldine Smith
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report (Towards a Non-carbon Fuel Economy: Research, Development and Demonstration), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

Implications for science of the Higher Education White Paper: Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, and Rt Hon Charles Clarke, Secretary of State for Education and Skills, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 April at Four o’clock.

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Wednesday 2 April 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter
Dr Andrew Murrison
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Scientific Response to Terrorism: Mr Nick Higgins, Chief Business Officer, Acambis, Dr Paul Drayson, Chief Executive, PowderJect, Dr Phillip Wright, Director, Science and Technology, Association for the British Pharmaceutical Society, Mr John Keddie, Director, Environmental Health and Safety, GlaxoSmithKline, Dr David Harper, Chief Scientist, Department of Health, Dr Richard Scott, Director of Science, Defence Science and Technology Laboratory, and Mr Brian Coleman, Director, Police Scientific Development Branch, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 April at Four o’clock.
Wednesday 9 April 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter

Geraldine Smith
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do meet on Mondays at Four o’clock.

Resolved, That the Committee do seek further statistical information from the National Environment Research Council in connection with its inquiry into the work of the National Environment Research Council.

UK Science and Europe: Value for Money?: Professor Sir George Radda, Chief Executive, Medical Research Council, Professor Julia Goodfellow, CBE, Chief Executive, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, Professor Ian Halliday, Chief Executive, Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, Professor Sir David King, Chief Scientific Adviser, and Dr John Taylor, Director General of the Research Councils, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 30 April at Four o’clock.

Wednesday 30 April 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Tom Harris
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter

Dr Andrew Murrison
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do attend a meeting on the UK Energy Research Centre on 2 May 2003.
The Work of the Natural Environment Research Council: Professor John Lawton, Chief Executive, Dr David Lynn, Director of Science and Innovation, Mr David Bloomer, Director of Finance and Information Systems, and Professor Anne Glover, Council Member, Natural Environment Research Council, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 14 May at Four o’clock.

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**Wednesday 14 May 2003**

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr David Heath
Mr Robert Key

Mr Tony McWalter
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

*Resolved*, That the Committee do take evidence from the Food Standards Agency; Tesco; Water UK; Thames Water; BAA; Network Rail; Home Office; and London Underground in connection with its inquiry into the scientific response to terrorism.

*Resolved*, That the Committee do attend an informal briefing at the Royal Observatory on 4 June in connection with its inquiry into light pollution and astronomy.

The Scientific Response to Terrorism: Dr Mike Crumpton, Formerly Director of Research (Laboratories), Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Mr David Harrison, Director of Health and Safety Unit, University of Birmingham, Academy of Medical Sciences, Mr Nick Winterton, Executive Director, Medical Research Council, Research Councils UK, Mr David Allen, Registrar and Secretary, University of Birmingham, Association of Heads of University Administration, Professor Brian Eyre, Chair of the Royal Society’s standing committee on Scientific Aspects of International Security, The Royal Society, and, Dr Alan Malcolm, Chief Executive, Institute of Biology, UK Biosciences Federation, were examined.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 May at Four o’clock.
Wednesday 21 May 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda Mr Tony McWalter
Mr David Heath Dr Andrew Murrison
Mr Brian Iddon Geraldine Smith
Mr Robert Key Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

The Scientific Response to Terrorism: Dr Julian Dennis, Chief Scientific Adviser, Thames Water, Mr Steve Wearne, Head of Chemical Contaminants and Animal feed Division, Food Standard Agency, and Mr John Longworth, Group Trading Law and Technical Director, Tesco Plc, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 9 June at Five o’clock.

Monday 9 June 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda Mr Tony McWalter
Mr Tom Harris Dr Andrew Murrison
Dr Brian Iddon Geraldine Smith
Mr Robert Key Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered, That the Committee publish the Government’s Response to the Towards a Non-Carbon Fuel Economy: Research, Development and Demonstration Report as an appendix to the Committee’s Sixth Special Report of Session 2002-03.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Resolved, That the Committee do meet with a delegation from the Upper Chamber of the Russian Parliament on Tuesday 1 July 2003.

Resolved, That Mr Tom Harris do visit St Andrews university in connection with the inquiry into light pollution and astronomy.
Light Pollution and Astronomy: Professor Paul Martin and Dr Helen Walker, Royal Astronomical Society, Mr Guy Hurst, President, British Astronomical Association, Mr Bob Mizon and Dr Chris Baddiley, Campaign for Dark skies, Professor Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal, and Professor John C Brown, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 16 June at Four o’clock.

Monday 16 June 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda  Mr Tony McWalter
Mr Tom Harris  Dr Andrew Murrison
Dr Brian Iddon  Geraldine Smith
Mr Robert Key  Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do seek a memorandum from the Department of Education and Skills on the number of university science departments that have closed over the last 10 years.—(The Chairman)

The Scientific Response to Terrorism: Mr Nick Starling, Co-Director, Safety Policy Directorate, Dr Paul Davies, Chief Scientist and Director, Corporate Science and Analytical Services Directorate, Health and Safety Executive, Mr Clive Norris, Director, Fire Health and Safety, David Pearce, Director, Fire Research Division, Mr Peter Morpew, HM Senior Inspector of Fire Services, Fire Health and Safety Directorate, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, and Mr Ron Dobson, Deputy Commissioner, London Fire Brigade, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 23 June at half-past Four o’clock.
Monday 23 June 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Tony McWalter

The Committee deliberated.

[Adjourned till Monday 30 June at Four o’clock.

Monday 30 June 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Parmjit Dhanda
Mr Tom Harris
Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key

Mr Tony McWalter
Dr Andrew Murrison
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do inquire into Nanotechnology.—(The Chairman)

Ordered, That Professor John Ryan be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Nanotechnology.—(The Chairman)

The Scientific Response to Terrorism: Mr John Hutton, Minister of State for Health, Dr Pat Troop, Chief Executive of the Health Protection Agency, Dr David Harper, Chief Scientist, Department for Health, Beverly Hughes, Minister for Citizenship, Immigration and Counter-terrorism, Professor Sir David King, Chief Scientific Adviser, Mr Marcial Boo, Director, CBRN Resilience, and Dr Ian Lawston, Scientific Adviser, CBRN Team, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 7 July at half-past Four o’clock.
Monday 7 July 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter

The Committee deliberated.

Draft Report (The Work of the Natural Environment Research Council), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report of the Science and Technology Committee, Session 2002-03 (HC 674, pg 51).

Work of the EPSRC: Professor John O'Reilly, Chief Executive, Dr David Clark, Director, Research and Innovation, Ms Beatrice Leigh, Member of EPSRC Council, and Mr Stuart Ward, Director, Resources, EPSRC, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 14 July at 4.00pm.

Monday 14 July 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter
Geraldine Smith
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do inquire into the use of science in the UK international development policy.—(The Chairman)

Ordered, That Mr Andrew Barnett be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into The use of Science in the UK International Development Policy.—(The Chairman)
Draft Report (UK Science and Europe: Value for Money?), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The Minutes of Proceedings relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report of the Science and Technology Committee, Session 2002-03 (HC 386-I, pg 67).

Light Pollution and Astronomy: Mr David Coatham, Institution of Lighting Engineers, Ginny Clark, Highways Agency, Mr Neil Sinden, Head of Policy, and Mr Tom Oliver, Head of Rural Policy, Council for the Protection of Rural England, Mr Peter Lummis, Lighting Engineer, Huntingdonshire District Council, Rt Hon Keith Hill MP, Minister of State, Housing and Planning, David Milliband MP, Minister for School Standards, Dr Martin Williams, Head of Air and Environmental Quality division, DEFRA, and Professor Ian Halliday, Chief Executive, Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 8 September at Four o’clock.

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**Monday 8 September 2003**

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Tom Harris  
Mr David Heath  
Mr Robert Key  
Mr Tony McWalter  
Dr Andrew Murrison  
Geraldine Smith

The Committee deliberated.

*Resolved*, That the Committee do visit Nanomagnetics and Bristol university on 21 October in connection with its inquiry into nanotechnology.

*Resolved*, That the Committee do visit Germany in connection with its inquiry into nanotechnology.

[Adjourned till Monday 15 September at half-past Four o’clock.]
Monday 15 September 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Tom Harris                     Mr Robert Key
Mr David Heath                    Mr Tony McWalter
Dr Brian Iddon                    Geraldine Smith

The Committee deliberated.

Ordered, That Dr Paul Atherton be appointed as a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into nanotechnology.—(The Chairman)

Ordered, That Professor Anne Mills be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into The use of science in UK international development policy.—(The Chairman)

Resolved, That the Committee do take evidence from the Department of Trade and Industry, OST and a panel from the Research Councils in connection with the inquiry into nanotechnology.

Draft Report (Light Pollution and Astronomy), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.


[Adjourned till Monday 20 October at Three o’clock.

Monday 20 October 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Dr Brian Iddon                     Bob Spink
Mr Robert Key                      Dr Desmond Turner
Mr Tony McWalter

The Committee deliberated.
Ordered, That the Committee publish the Government’s Response to The Work of the Natural Environment Research Council Report as an appendix to the Committee’s Seventh Special Report of Session 2002-03.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That the Committee publish the Government’s Response to the UK Science and Europe: Value for Money? Report as an appendix to the Committee’s Eighth Special Report of Session 2002-03.

Ordered, That the Chairman do make the Report to the House.

Draft Report (The Scientific Response to Terrorism), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.


Draft Report (The Work of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.


Resolved, That the Committee do inquire into the HFEA and the EU Chemicals Directive.

Nanotechnology: Mr Patrick McDonald, Director, Key Business Directorate, Innovation Group, Department of Trade and Industry, Professor John O’Reilly, Chief Executive, and Dr Clive Hayter, Programme Manager for Materials, Engineering and Physical Research Council, Professor Colin Whitehouse, Director of Engineering, Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils, Professor David White, Head of Science and Technology Group, Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council, Dr Diane McLaren, Strategy and Initiatives Coordinator, Medical Research Council, and Dr Justin Malloy, Head of the Division of Physical Biochemistry, National Institute for Medical Research, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 27 October at Four o’clock.]
Monday 27 October 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter

Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Nanotechnology: Dr Kevin Matthews, Executive Director and Scientific Advisory Board Member, Oxonica, Professor Philip Bartlett, Director, Nanotecure, Ottillia Saxl, Chief Executive, Institute of Nanotechnology, Sir John Chisholm, Chief Executive Officer, QinetiQ, Dr Alan McKinnon, Director of Laboratory, Unilever Research and Development, Stephen Lowery, Senior Associate, and Robert Jelski, Industrial Advisor, 3i, John Mackie, Chief Executive, BVCA, and Professor John Bates, London Business School, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 3 November at Four o’clock.

Monday 3 November 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter

Geraldine Smith
Bob Spink
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Nanotechnology: Mr Neil Mundy, Chairman, Dr Clive Reeves, Member, Development Agencies Network Collaboration for UK Micro and Nanotechnology, Professor Mark Welland, Director, Cambridge Nanotechnology Interdisciplinary Research Collaboration, and Professor Gabriel Aeppli, Director, London Centre for Nanotechnology, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 10 November at Four o’clock.
Monday 10 November 2003

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the chair

Mr Robert Key
Mr Tony McWalter
Dr Andrew Morrison

Gerladine Smith
Dr Desmond Turner

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Committee do take evidence from Lord Sainsbury on a regular basis to answer questions on recent development regarding science and innovation.

Resolved, That the Committee do visit Africa in connection with its inquiry into the use of science in UK international development policy.

OST Scrutiny Report 2003: Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science and Innovation, Professor Sir David King, Chief Scientific Adviser, and Dr John Taylor, Director General of the Research Councils, were examined.

[Adjourned till Monday 1 December at Four o'clock.]