



HOUSE OF LORDS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Role and function of departmental Chief Scientific Advisers

Deadline for submissions: Friday 16 September 2011

The Science and Technology Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lord Krebs, has launched a short inquiry to investigate the role and function of departmental Chief Scientific Advisers (CSAs).

The Committee will be looking, in particular, at the following aspects:

- the ability of CSAs to provide independent advice to ministers and policy makers within their departments;
- the extent of their influence over research spend;
- their role in providing independent challenge and ensuring that departmental policies are evidenced-based;
- the range of expertise provided by the network of CSAs;
- the extent to which CSAs have authoritative standing within relevant academic, industrial or business communities, including whether they have effective networks within those communities; and
- the contribution of CSAs in promoting public trust in the independence and authority of science advice to government.

The Committee will hold public meetings in October and November 2011 and the Committee's report will be published in early 2012.

Submission instructions

Evidence should be submitted in an editable electronic form as a Microsoft Word document by email to: hlsceince@parliament.uk. Please do not submit PDFs. If you do not have access to Microsoft Word or to the internet you may submit a paper copy to: Christine Salmon Percival, Clerk to the Science and Technology Committee, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW, Fax: 0207 219 4931. The deadline for written evidence is Friday 16 September 2011.

Please ensure that you include relevant contact details. Evidence should be attributed and dated, with a note of your name and position, and should state whether it is submitted on an individual or corporate basis.

Short submissions are preferred. Longer submissions (more than 6 pages) should include a one-page summary. Hard copy should be clearly printed or typed on single sides of A4 paper, unstapled. Paragraphs should be numbered.

Evidence should be prepared specifically for this inquiry. Witnesses are encouraged to focus on those issues of which they have particular knowledge or experience—submissions are not required to cover all questions.

Evidence becomes the property of the Committee, and may be printed, published electronically or circulated by the Committee at any stage. Written evidence will normally be published online and deposited in the Parliamentary Archives.

Once you have received acknowledgement that the evidence has been received, you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself, but in doing so you should indicate that it was prepared for the Committee. Parliamentary privilege will not apply to your own publication. If a submission is substantially the same as work that has already been published or disseminated for some other purpose, or is deemed not to be relevant to the inquiry, it will not be treated as formal evidence.

Personal contact details supplied to the Committee will be removed from evidence before publication and from the copy deposited in the Archives. However, personal contact details will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, for instance to seek additional information or to send copies of the Committee's report.

The Committee will invite some of those who submit written evidence to give oral evidence at Westminster. Transcripts of such evidence will be published.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the Clerk or the Chairman of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

You can follow the progress of the inquiry via the Science and Technology Committee web pages, accessed from <http://www.parliament.uk/hlsceince>.