



House of Commons

Innovation, Universities,
Science and Skills Committee

Minutes of Proceedings

Session 2007–08



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The Innovation, Universities, Science & Skills Committee

The Innovation, Universities, Science & Skills Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Current membership

Mr Phil Willis (*Liberal Democrat, Harrogate and Knaresborough*)(Chairman)
Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods (*Labour, City of Durham*)
Mr Tim Boswell (*Conservative, Daventry*)
Mr Ian Cawsey (*Labour, Brigg & Goole*)
Mrs Nadine Dorries (*Conservative, Mid Bedfordshire*)
Dr Ian Gibson (*Labour, Norwich North*)
Dr Evan Harris (*Liberal Democrat, Oxford West & Abingdon*)
Dr Brian Iddon (*Labour, Bolton South East*)
Mr Gordon Marsden (*Labour, Blackpool South*)
Dr Bob Spink (*UK Independence Party, Castle Point*)
Ian Stewart (*Labour, Eccles*)
Graham Stringer (*Labour, Manchester, Blackley*)
Dr Desmond Turner (*Labour, Brighton Kemptown*)
Mr Rob Wilson (*Conservative, Reading East*)

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/ius
A list of reports from the Committee in this Parliament is included at the back of this volume.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are: Sarah Davies (Clerk); Glenn McKee (Second Clerk); Dr Christopher Tyler (Committee Specialist); Dr Joanna Dally (Committee Specialist); Ana Ferreira (Committee Assistant); Camilla Brace (Committee Secretary); Anna Browning (Committee Secretary); Jonathan Olivier Wright (Senior Office Clerk); and Becky Jones (Media Officer).

Contacts

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

Proceedings of the Committee

Wednesday 14 November 2007

Members present:

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods	Mr Gordon Marsden
Mr Ian Cawsey	Dr Bob Spink
Mrs Nadine Dorries	Ian Stewart
Dr Ian Gibson	Graham Stringer
Dr Evan Harris	Dr Desmond Turner
Dr Brian Iddon	Mr Phil Willis

1. Declaration of Interests

Members disclosed their interests, pursuant to the resolution of the House of 13 July 1992. (See Appendix).

2. Nomination of Chairman

Motion made, That Dr Desmond Turner take the Chair of the Committee.—(*Dr Ian Gibson.*)

Motion made, That Mr Phil Willis take the Chair of the Committee.—(*Graham Stringer.*)

Question put, That Dr Desmond Turner take the Chair of the Committee.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 3

Noes, 9

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Dr Bob Spink

Mr Ian Cawsey

Dr Desmond Turner

Mrs Nadine Dorries

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Gordon Marsden

Ian Stewart

Mr Graham Stringer

Mr Phil Willis

Question, That Mr Phil Willis take the Chair of the Committee, put and agreed to.

Mr Phil Willis accordingly took the Chair.

3. Meetings in public

Ordered, That the public be admitted during the examination of witnesses unless the Committee orders otherwise.

4. Publication of Evidence

Ordered, That those who submit written evidence to the Committee have leave to publish it, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No 135.

5. Publication of uncorrected transcripts

Ordered, That uncorrected transcripts of oral evidence given to the Committee be published on the internet.

6. Publication of memoranda on the Internet

Resolved, that written evidence received by the Committee should be published on the Committee's website immediately after the first oral evidence session for the relevant inquiry (after the evidence in question has been reported to the House).

7. Committee awayday

Resolved, That the Committee hold an awayday.

8. Renewable energy technologies

Resolved, That the Committee pursue the inquiry into renewable energy technologies which was left uncompleted by the Science and Technology Committee.

9. Programme of work

Resolved, That the Committee hold a series of one-off evidence sessions with Lord Sainsbury of Turville on the Sainsbury Review, the Rt Hon John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Ian Watmore, Permanent Secretary, on the formation of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Professor John Beddington, Government Chief Scientific Adviser designate, and Professor David Eastwood, Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for England.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 November at 9.00am.

Appendix

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods declared that her husband, Professor Timothy Blackman worked in the university sector. She also declared that she was a visiting Professor at Northumbria University and a tutor at St John's College, (both non paid positions). She also declared that she was a member of the University and College Union.

Dr Ian Gibson declared that he was a member of the University and College Union.

Dr Evan Harris declared that the provision of his constituency office was rented at a reduced, but still market, rate from Wellister Investments. He also declared that he had been provided with the services of an intern, to conduct research work and co-ordinate a project, by Sense About Science, and independent charitable trust, from 29 January 2007 to 30 March 2007. He also declared that he was a member of the British Medical Association (BMA) and the BMA Ethics Committee.

Dr Brian Iddon declared several miscellaneous and unremunerated interests: chairman of the Board of Directors of Bolton Technical Innovation Centre Ltd (Honorary Position); Chairman of the Board of Trustee of Newton's Apple; Fellow and Parliamentary Adviser to the Royal Society of Chemistry; Honorary Member, Society of Chemical Industry; Member of the External Advisory Board at the School of Chemistry, University of Manchester; and a Visiting Professor in the Department of Chemistry, University of Liverpool. He also declared that he was a member of the University and College Union.

Dr Desmond Turner declared he was a Member of the University and College Union.

Wednesday 21 November 2007

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Ian Cawsey

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Renewable energy-generation technologies

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Renewable energy-generation technologies.

Ordered, That Professor Nicholas Jenkins be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Renewable Energy Generation Technologies.

3. The Sainsbury Review

Lord Sainsbury of Turville gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 28 November at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 28 November 2007

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Ian Cawsey

Ian Stewart

Dr Ian Gibson

Graham Stringer

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Renewable energy-generation technologies

Resolved, That the title of the inquiry into Renewable energy-generation technologies be changed to *Renewable electricity-generation technologies*.

3. Higher Education Issues

Bill Rammell MP, Minister of State, Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and Professor David Eastwood, Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for England, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 5 December at 9.00am.

Wednesday 5 December 2007

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Ian Cawsey

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Biosecurity in UK research laboratories

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Biosecurity in UK research laboratories.

3. The MRC and the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation

Resolved, That the Committee take evidence in connection with the UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation.

4. The Role of the Government Chief Scientific Adviser

Professor Sir David King, Government Chief Scientific Adviser, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12 December at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 12 December 2007

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Evan Harris

Graham Stringer

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Desmond Turner

Mr Gordon Marsden

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Allocation of the Science Budget

Resolved, That the Committee take evidence in connection with Science budget allocations.

3. The Role of the Government Chief Scientific Adviser

Professor John Beddington, Government Chief Scientific Adviser designate, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 17 December at 4.00pm.]

Monday 17 December 2007

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Ian Stewart

Dr Ian Gibson

Graham Stringer

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Sub-Committee

Dr Evan Harris proposed that the Committee establish a permanent Sub-Committee on Science and Technology. The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

3. Appointment of Sub-Committee

Ordered, That a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider the work of the Copyright Tribunal.

Resolved, That, once the Sub-Committee on the work of the Copyright Tribunal has been discharged, that a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider Biosecurity in UK research laboratories.

4. Renewable electricity-generation technologies

Ordered, That Professor Peter Pearson be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Renewable electricity-generation technologies.

5. The UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation

Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Chief Executive, Medical Research Council, Dr Mark Walport, Director, Wellcome Trust, Professor Malcolm Grant, President and Provost, University College London and Ms Lynn Robb, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director of Corporate Resources, Cancer Research UK, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 January at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 9 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Tim Boswell

Graham Stringer

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Evan Harris

1. Declaration of Interests

Mr Tim Boswell disclosed his interests, pursuant to the resolution of the House of 13 July 1992. (See Appendix).

2. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Investigating the Oceans

Resolved, That the Government response to the Tenth Report from the Science and Technology Committee, Investigating the Oceans, Session 2006-07, be published as a memorandum on the Committee's Website.

4. The funding of Science and Discovery Centres

Draft Special Report (*The Funding of Science and Discovery Centres: Government Response to the Eleventh Report from the Science and Technology Committee, Session 2006-07*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Eleventh Report from the Science and Technology Committee in Session 2006-07 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

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

5. Renewable electricity-generation technologies and Biosecurity in UK research laboratories inquiries

Resolved, That the Committee visit Germany in connection with its inquiries into *renewable electricity-generation technologies and Biosecurity in UK research laboratories*,

and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16 January at 9.00am.

Appendix

Name	Interests- January 2008
Mr Tim Boswell	Remunerated employment, office, profession etc Self employed partner in family farming business at Lower Aynho Grounds (see below).
	Land and Property Lower Aynho Grounds Farm (as above), Northants/Oxon, from which rental income is also received. Land at Great Leighs, Essex (with family interests), from which rental income is received.
	Registrable shareholdings Barclays PLC; banking. Glaxo Smith Kline PLC; pharmaceuticals. Reckitt Benckiser PLC; household products. Tesco PLC; food retailing. Target Corporation Inc.; US retailer. BASF; German, chemicals
	Further relevant interests I. A pecuniary interest in EON (below current registration limit) II. Non pecuniary interests as a Member of Council of : a) Foundation for Management Education; and b) University of Wales Institute, Cardiff

Wednesday 16 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods	Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Tim Boswell	Mr Gordon Marsden
Mr Ian Cawsey	Graham Stringer
Dr Ian Gibson	Dr Desmond Turner
Dr Evan Harris	Mr Rob Wilson

1. Declaration of Interests

Mr Rob Wilson disclosed his interests, pursuant to the resolution of the House of 13 July 1992. (See Appendix).

2. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

3. The UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation

Draft Report (*UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

(The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, HC 185.)

4. Engineering

Resolved, that the Committee inquire into Engineering.

5. The formation of DIUS

Rt Hon John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and Ian Watmore, Permanent Secretary, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 17 January at 9.00am.]

Appendix

Name	Interests- January 2008
Mr Rob Wilson	Land and Property A flat in Reading. Registrable shareholdings c) Pocket Group Ltd; telecoms Health Amico Ltd; health information service Revolution Ventures Ltd d) Vital Imaging (Europe) Ltd; health screening IX Group; GP polling

Thursday 17 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Ian Cawsey

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Science and Technology Committee: The Last Report

Draft Special Report (*The Last Report: Government Response to the Thirteenth Report from the Science and Technology Committee, Session 2006-07*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Thirteenth Report from the Science and Technology Committee in Session 2006-07 was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

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

3. Copyright Tribunal Sub-Committee Membership

Ordered, That Dr Ian Gibson, Mr Tim Boswell, Mr Ian Cawsey, Dr Brian Iddon, Dr Des Turner and Mr Phil Willis be members of the Copyright Tribunal Sub-Committee.

Ordered, That Dr Ian Gibson be Chairman of the Copyright Tribunal Sub-Committee.

4. Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories inquiry

Resolved, That the Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories Sub-Committee, once appointed, visit Pirbright in connection with the inquiry.

5. Funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications inquiry

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications be reported to the House for publication on the internet: Milton

Contact Limited; Liverpool John Moores University; Open University in the South West; Million +; Institute of Fundraising; Royal Veterinary College; British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy; City of Westminster College; Council of University Classical Departments; Office of the City Remembrancer; Y Action; Open University; CIHE; Chartered Management Institute; Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management; Open University Students Association; Council for the Mathematical Sciences; British Society of Immunology; Kings College, London; National Bureau for Students with Disabilities; Microsoft; University of East London; WEA; Section of Family Therapy, Institute of Psychiatry; Training Agencies Group; The Geological Society of London; British Computer Society; Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies; Conservatoires UK; Cambridge Theological Federation; The English Association, University of Leicester; National Union of Students; The Rt Revd Graham James, Bishop of Norwich; Birkbeck; Oxford University; Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences; PCS Union; Heythrop College, University of London; Relate; London Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Head of Student Planning and Information, University of Kent; Head of Strategic Planning and Policy Support, University of Cumbria; Campaign for Learning; UK Resource Centre for Women in SET; Deputy Rector, University of the Arts, London; British Association Psychotherapists; UNISON; Education Workforce Unit; Deputy Vice Chancellor, Bolton University; Association of Business Schools; Birkbeck College Student Union; University College Union; Council for College and University English; Educational Trust; Tavistock and Portman, NHS; Guildhall School of Music and Drama; Merseytravel; John Bowis MEP; Portia; Society of St Thomas and St Augustine; Council of University Heads of Pharmacy; The School of Pharmacy, University of London; Prospect; National Institute of Adult Continuing Education; The Church's main committee; Association of Colleges; eSkills; Bradford College; London Higher; Council of Professors and Heads of Computing; GuildHE; British Psychological Society; TUC; University Association for Lifelong Learning; British Ecological Society; Institute of Physics; Institute of Education; Birkbeck College Student Union; 1994 Group; University of Liverpool; ERICA; Universities UK; Women's Budget Group; University of Teeside; Arts Council England; Midlands Energy Consortium; British Association of Psychotherapists; Science Council; Revd David A. Neaum; Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; Campaign for Science and Engineering; Revd Canon Dr Robin Ward; Arts Institute at Bournemouth; Rob Swain, MFA Theatre Directing, Birkbeck; Society for Old Testament Study; British Philosophical Association; Westminster College, Cambridge; Archaeology Training Forum; Anglia Ruskin University; Canon Gordon Oliver; Association of MBAs; University of Sunderland; British Association for Applied Linguistics; The Bloomsbury Colleges of University of London; and Thames Valley University.

Professor Brenda Gourley, Vice-Chancellor, Open University, Professor David Latchman, Master of Birkbeck, Birkbeck College, University of London, Ms Sally Hunt, General Secretary, University and College Union, Ms Gemma Tumelty, President, National Union of Students; Bill Rammell MP, Minister of State, Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and

Professor David Eastwood, Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 21 January at 4.00p.m.]

Monday 21 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Ian Cawsey

Graham Stringer

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Rob Wilson

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Science budget allocations

Professor Michael Rowan-Robinson, President, Royal Astronomical Society, Professor Peter Main, Director of Education and Science, Institute of Physics, Mr Tony Bell, National Secretary, Prospect, Professor Ian Diamond, Chair, Research Councils UK, Professor Keith Mason, Chief Executive, Science and Technology Facilities Council, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 23 January at 9.00a.m.]

Wednesday 23 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Ian Cawsey

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

Graham Stringer

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Engineering

Resolved, That the Committee visit Beijing and Tokyo in connection with its inquiry into Engineering, and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with this visit.

3. Science budget allocations

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, the Astronomy Technology Centre and the Daresbury Laboratory in connection with its inquiry into science budget allocations.

4. Renewable electricity-generation technologies

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to *Renewable electricity-generation technologies*

be reported to the House for publication on the internet: National Federation of Roofing Contractors, BWEA (British Wind Energy Association), IET (Institution of Engineering and Technology), REA (Renewable Energy Association, Energy Saving Trust, Micropower Council, RCUK (Research Councils UK), Keith Barnham, Emeritus Professor of Physics, Imperial College London, National Grid, NESTA, Energy Saving Trust, E.ON UK, RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry), IOP (Institute of Physics), Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Midlands Energy Consortium, Research Councils UK; npower renewables, Carbon Trust, South East England Development Agency, Energy Technologies Institute, and Warwick Institute for Sustainable Energy and Resources.

Professor John Wilson, Member, Institute of Physics Science Board, Institute of Physics, John Loughhead, Executive Director, UK Energy Research Centre, Dr Gordon Edge, Director of Economics & Markets, British Wind Energy Association, and Philip Wolfe, Executive Director, Renewable Energy Association; Mrs Sarah Rhodes, Director, Emerging Energy Technologies, Mr Michael Duggan, Deputy Director, Renewables Obligation, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, and Professor David Delpy, Chief Executive, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, representing Research Councils UK gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 30 January at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 30 January 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Robert Blackman-Woods

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Ian Cawsey

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

Graham Stringer

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Renewable Electricity-Generation Technologies

Dr Paul Golby, Chief Executive of E.ON UK and Co-Chair of the Energy Research Partnership, Dr David Clarke, Chief Executive, Energy Technologies Institute, Professor Peter Bruce FRSE, Royal Society of Edinburgh, Dr Alison Wall, Joint Head, Energy and Climate Change, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Nick Harrington, General Manager, Wave Hub Project, South West RDA, on behalf of the Marine Institute for Innovation, Jeff Alexander, Executive Director Global Competitiveness, on behalf of Regional Development Agencies, Ravi Baga, Director of Environment and Market Regulation, EDF Energy, and Kevin McCullough, Chief Operating Officer, RWE npower, gave oral evidence.

3. Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories Sub-Committee

Ordered, That the Work of the Copyright Tribunal Sub-Committee be discharged and a Sub-Committee be appointed on Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories.

Ordered, That Mr Phil Willis, Mr Tim Boswell, Mr Ian Cawsey, Dr Ian Gibson, Dr Evan Harris, Dr Brian Iddon, and Mr Graham Stringer be members of the Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories Sub-Committee.

Ordered, That Mr Phil Willis be Chairman of the Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories Sub-Committee.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 6 February at 9.00am.]

Thursday 31 January 2008

Mr Phil Willis, Dr Evan Harris and Mr Ian Stewart visited Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, in connection with the inquiry into Science Budget Allocations.

Monday 4 February 2008

Mr Phil Willis and Mr Ian Stewart visited the UK Astronomy Technology Centre in Edinburgh in a representative capacity, in connection with the inquiry into Science Budget Allocations.

Wednesday 6 February 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Robert Blackman-Woods

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

Graham Stringer

Dr Evan Harris

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories inquiry*

Ordered, That Professor Joe Brownlie and Professor Colin Howard be appointed as Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in its inquiry into biosecurity in UK research laboratories.

3. *Engineering*

Resolved, That the Committee's inquiry into engineering includes case studies on plastic electronics engineering and nuclear engineering.

Resolved, That the Committee visit China and Japan in connection with the Engineering inquiry, and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for funding for the visit.

4. *Government's Chief Statistician*

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from the Government's Chief Statistician.

5. The Leitch Review of Skills

Resolved, That the Committee take oral evidence from Lord Leitch on The Leitch Review of Skills.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 20 February at 9.00 a.m.]

Monday 18 February 2008

Mr Phil Willis, Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods, Dr Evan Harris, Dr Brian Iddon, and Graham Stringer visited Daresbury Laboratory in connection with the inquiry into Science Budget Allocations.

Wednesday 20 February 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Robert Blackman-Woods

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Ian Cawsey

Graham Stringer

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Evan Harris

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Science budget allocations inquiry

Resolved, that the Committee take oral evidence from Professor Keith Mason, Chief Executive, Science and Technology Facilities Council, Mr Peter Warry, Chair of the STFC Council, and representatives of the research community related to the Committee's visits.

3. Investigating the oceans: follow-up to the Science and Technology Committee's Tenth Report of Session 2006-07

Resolved, that the Committee take oral evidence from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

4. Nomination of representative for POST board

Resolved, That Mr Phil Willis represent the Committee on the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology board.

5. After Leitch: Implementing skills and training policies

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into *After Leitch: Implementing skills and training policies*.

5. Science budget allocations

Ian Pearson MP, Minister for Science and Innovation, and Professor Sir Keith O’Nions, Director General, Science and Innovation, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 27 February at 9.00am.

Wednesday 27 February 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Ian Cawsey

Ian Stewart

Dr Ian Gibson

Graham Stringer

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee’s Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories

Resolved, that the Sub-Committee visit Porton Down in connection with its inquiry into Biosecurity in UK research laboratories.

3. Science budget allocations

Resolved, that the Committee visit CERN in connection with its inquiry into Science Budget Allocations, and that the Chairman seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

4. Science budget allocations

Professor Swapan Chattopadhyay, Director, Cockcroft Institute, Professor Richard Holdaway, Director, Space Science & Technology, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Professor Keith Mason, Chief Executive, and Mr Peter Warry, Chairman, Science and Technology Facilities Council, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 10 March at 4.00pm.]

Monday 10 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Ian Cawsey

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

Graham Stringer

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Rob Wilson

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The work and operation of the Copyright Tribunal

Draft Report from the Sub-Committee (*The work and operation of the Copyright Tribunal*), brought up and read.

(The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report of the Committee, HC 245.)

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12 March at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 12 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Ian Cawsey

Graham Stringer

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Renewable electricity-generation technologies

Professor Gordon MacKerron, Economic and Social Research Council, Mr David Sowden, Chief Executive, Micropower Council, Mr Brian Samuel, Energy Saving Trust, and Mr Allan Jones MBE, Chief Executive Officer, London Climate Change Agency; Mr Paul Whittaker, UK Director of Regulation, National Grid; Mr Steve Smith, Managing Director of Networks, Ofgem; Mr David Smith, Acting Chief Executive, Energy Networks Association; and Mr Dave Rogers, Director of Climate and Renewables, E.ON UK gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 17 March at 3.30pm.]

Monday 17 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Ian Cawsey

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Ian Gibson

Mr Gordon Marsden

1. Withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications

Draft Report (*Withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

(The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report of the Committee, HC 187.)

[Adjourned till Wednesday 19 March at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 19 March 2008

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Ian Cawsey

Graham Stringer

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The use of Government statistics in evidence-based policy-making

Ms Karen Dunnell, National Statistician, and Mike Hughes, Director of the National Statistics and Policy Group, ONS, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 26 March at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 26 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Evan Harris

Graham Stringer

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation

Draft Special Report (*The UK Centre for Medical Research and Innovation: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the First Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Third Special Report of the Committee to the House.

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

3. Renewable electricity-generation technologies

Malcolm Wicks MP, Minister of State for Energy, Simon Virley, Head of Renewable Energy and Innovation Unit, and Kathryn Newell, Assistant Director, UK Energy Research Development & Demonstration, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 April at 9.00am.]

Thursday 27 March 2008

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods, Mr Tim Boswell, Ian Cawsey, Dr Evan Harris, and Ian Stewart visited CERN, Geneva in connection with the inquiry into the Research Councils.

Wednesday 2 April 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Tim Boswell

Ian Stewart

Mr Ian Cawsey

Graham Stringer

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Evan Harris

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Engineering

Ordered, That Professor Mike Gregory CBE be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Engineering.

3. Sixth European Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat

Resolved, That Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods serve on a delegation from the House at the Sixth European Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat to be held in Bucharest on 23 and 24 April 2008.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 April at 1.50pm.]

Tuesday 22 April 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

Ordered, That the Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories Sub-Committee be discharged and a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider Investigating the Oceans.

Ordered, That all the Members of the Committee be members of the Sub-Committee.

Ordered, That Mr Phil Willis be the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 23 April at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 23 April 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Evan Harris

Graham Stringer

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Engineering

Ordered, That Dr Hayaatun Sillem be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Engineering.

3. Science Budget Allocations

Draft Report (*Science Budget Allocations*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

(The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 215.)

[Adjourned till Monday 28 April at 4.00pm

Monday 28 April 2008

Members present:

Mr Gordon Marsden, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Mr Phil Willis

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Rob Wilson

Ian Stewart

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *The Leitch Review*

Lord Leitch and Louise Tilbury, former team leader, Leitch Review of Skills, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 30 April at 9.00am

Wednesday 30 April 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Ian Cawsey

Ian Stewart

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Investigating the Oceans*

Draft Special Report (*Investigating the Oceans: Government Response to the Tenth Report from the Science and Technology Committee, Session 2006-07*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Tenth Report from the Science and Technology Committee in Session 2006-07 was appended to the Report, together with a Memorandum laid before the Committee.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fourth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

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

3. *Engineering*

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to engineering be reported to the House for publication on the internet: Warwick S Faville; (UKCRC) UK Computing Research Committee; Environment Agency; Dr David Birdsall; Clive Bone; Professor

Michael Kelly; Greenpower; Smallpiece Trust; Young Engineers; Royal Aeronautical Society; United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers (UKAPE); National Grid; Faculty of Engineering; Imperial College; London; Materials UK; Network Rail; EDF Energy Networks; BAE Systems plc; The Engineering Development Trust; Engineering Professors' Council; New Engineering Foundation; The Engineering and Technology Board; UKNEST; Wellcome Trust; Prospect; The Professional Engineering Community; ICE (Institution of Civil Engineers); EAMA (Engineering and Machinery Alliance); UKEA (UK Engineering Alliance); Professor Steve Rothberg; Loughborough University; WES (Women's Engineering Society); VP Engineering; Messier-Dowty Limited; Michael Dickson CBE; INuCE and BNES (Institution of Nuclear Engineers and the British Nuclear Energy Society); EEF; Universities UK; The Universities Transport Partnership; Edexcel; Semta (Sector Skills Council for Science); Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies; UK Resource Centre for Women in Science; Engineering and Technology; ConstructionSkills; RAE; IChemE; IOP (Institute of Physics); John Napier; British Computer Society; STEMNET; Research Councils UK; The Learning Grid; Engineering Council UK; Chartered Management Institute; IET (The Institution of Engineering and Technology); The WISE Campaign; CEESI Training; Professor John Monk; Department of Communications and Systems; Open University; Design and Technology Association; Hereford & Worcester Chamber of Commerce; CaSE; Thales; Rolls-Royce; AoC (Association of Colleges); HVCA (Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association); The Royal Society; ACE (Association for Consultancy and Engineering); SMMT (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Limited); Society of British Aerospace Companies; Ford Motor Company Limited; NEPIC; (North East Process Industry Cluster); and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Miss Rachael Mensah, Year 9, and Miss Harriett Leyden, Year 10, St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls, Mr Oyenuga Aboiye, 3rd Year Architecture student, London South Bank University, Mr Le'val Haughton-Jones, Year in Industry Student, Royal Academy of Engineering/London Engineering Project, Mr David Lakin, Young Engineers Field Worker, Mr Chris Martin, Imperial College London, Lord Browne of Madingley, President, Royal Academy of Engineering, Mr Norman Haste, Chief Operating Officer, Laing O'Rourke, and Professor Michael Kelly, Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 7 May at 9.00am

Wednesday 7 May 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Ian Cawsey

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Investigating the Oceans Sub-Committee be discharged and a Sub-committee be appointed to consider After Leitch: Implementing Skills and Training Policies.

Ordered, That all Members of the Committee be members of the Sub-Committee.

Ordered, That Mr Phil Willis be the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2. Engineering

Keith Read, Chairman, G15 Group of Engineering Institutions, Philip Greenish, Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Engineering, Andrew Ramsay, Chief Executive, Engineering Council UK, Sir Anthony Cleaver, Chairman, Engineering and Technology Board, Ms Terry Marsh, Director, Women Into Science, Engineering and Construction, Ms Gemma Murphy, Marketing Development Officer, Smallpeice Trust, Ms Pat Langford, Director, Programmes, STEMNET, and Francis Evans, Chief Executive, the Learning Grid, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 21 May at 9.00am

Wednesday 21 May 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Ian Cawsey

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. After Leitch: Implementing skills and training policies

Ordered, That Professor Ewart Keep and Mr Chris Hughes be appointed as Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in its inquiry into After Leitch: Implementing skills and training policies.

3. Engineering

Keith Elliott, Principal of City, Bristol College, representing the Association of Colleges, Professor Barry Clarke, Vice President and President Elect, Engineering Professors' Council, Dr Lesley Thompson, Director, Research Directorate, EPSRC, Lynn Tomkins, Director, UK Policy, Semta, Chris Allam, Project Director SUAV(E), BAE Systems, Ms Lee Hopley, Senior Economist, Engineering Employers Federation, and Ian Coucher, Chief Executive, Network Rail, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 2 June at 4.00pm]

Monday 2 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Tim Boswell

Ian Stewart

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The Office for Fair Access

Professor Sir Martin Harris, Director, Fair Access to Higher Education, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 June at 9.00am]

Wednesday 4 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Ian Gibson

Mr Graham Stringer

Dr Evan Harris

Ian Stewart

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 11 June at 9.00am

Wednesday 11 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Ian Cawsey

Mr Graham Stringer

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Copyright Tribunal

Draft Special Report (*The work of the Copyright Tribunal: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Committee's Second Report was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Fifth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

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

3. *Withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications*

Draft Special Report (*Withdrawal of funding for equivalent or lower level qualifications (ELQs): Government Response to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Committee's Third Report was appended to the Report, together with a letter from the Chairman to the Rt Hon John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Resolved, That the Report be the Sixth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

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

4. *Science Budget Allocations*

Draft Special Report (*Science Budget Allocations: Government Response to the Committee's Fourth Report of Session 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Committee's Third Report was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Seventh Special Report of the Committee to the House.

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

5. *Engineering*

Ordered, That Professor Donal Bradley be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Plastic Electronics Engineering.

6. *Renewable Electricity-generation technologies*

Draft Report (*Renewable electricity-generation technologies*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

(The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report of the Committee, HC 216.)

7. *Nuclear Engineering Case Study*

Resolved, That the Committee visit Sizewell B in connection with the Nuclear Engineering case study.

[Adjourned till Monday 16 June at 4.00pm.]

Monday 16 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Evan Harris

Ian Stewart

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Biosecurity in UK research laboratories*

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

Draft Report from the Sub-Committee (*Biosecurity in UK research laboratories*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

(The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report of the Committee, HC 360.)

[Adjourned till Wednesday 18 June at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 18 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Dr Ian Gibson

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Ian Cawsey

Dr Des Turner

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Engineering*

Resolved, That the Committee's inquiry into engineering further include case studies into *geo- engineering* and *engineering in Government*.

3. *Engineering: Plastic Electronics case study*

Professor Sir Richard Friend, Cavendish Professor of Physics, University of Cambridge, appearing on behalf of the Institute of Physics, Dr Ian French, Dr Sue Ion, the Royal Academy of Engineering; Mike Biddle, Technology Strategy Board, Vince Osgood, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Hermann Hauser, Amadeus Capital Partners Ltd, and Fergus Harradence, Deputy Director of Innovation Policy, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 June at 9.00am.

Wednesday 25 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Ian Cawsey

Ian Stewart

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Des Turner

Mr Gordon Marsden

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Engineering*

Ordered, That Dr Paul Howarth be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Nuclear Engineering.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 July at 9.00am.

Wednesday 2 July 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods	Dr Brian Iddon
Mr Tim Boswell	Ian Stewart
Dr Ian Gibson	Dr Des Turner
Dr Evan Harris	

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. New Inquiries

Resolved, That the Committee hold a one-off evidence session with the Quality Assurance Agency.

3. Plastic electronics engineering

Professor Sir David King, former Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Mr Chris Williams, UK Displays and Lighting Knowledge Transfer Network, Dr Tom Taylor, Plastic Electronics Technology Centre, Centre for Process Innovation Ltd, Mr Nigel Perry, Centre for Process Innovation Ltd, Dr Richard Price, Nano e-Print, Mr Stuart Evans, Plastic Logic, and Dr Keith Rollins, Dupont Teijin Film gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 7 July at 4.00pm.

Monday 7 July 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods	Mr Gordon Marsden
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Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Graham Stringer

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Sub-Committee on Investigating the Oceans be discharged and a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider the Quality Assurance Agency: Recent Reports on Standards in Universities.

Ordered, That all Members of the Committee be members of the Sub-Committee.

Ordered, That Mr Phil Willis be the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2. *Nuclear Engineering*

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to Nuclear Engineering be reported to the House for publication on the internet: Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department for Innovation and Skills joint submission; Professor Bernard Kelly, University of Manchester; Dalton Nuclear Institute; Institution of Mechanical Engineers; British Energy; AMEC Nuclear UK Limited; Nuclear Physics Forum; Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining; Institute of Physics; Cogent Sector Skills Council and National Skills Academy Nuclear; Professor R G Faulkner, Loughborough University; Institution of Engineers and the British Nuclear Energy Society; Nuclear Industry Association; Institution of Civil Engineers; EDF Energy; University of Central Lancashire; Royal Academy of Engineering; Research Councils UK; Institution of Engineering and Technology; Westinghouse Electric Company; Babcock International Group plc; Rolls-Royce; David Lindsley; The Royal Society; BAE Systems; Society of British Aerospace Companies; Engineering Professors' Council; High Power laser Energy Research project; UKAEA Culham.

Professor Sir Chris Llewellyn Smith, Director, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (Culham Division), Professor Jonathan Billowes, Director of Education, Dalton Nuclear Institute, Dr Stephen Garwood, Director, Engineering & Technology – Submarines, Rolls-Royce, Dr Graham Baldwin, Pro Vice Chancellor (Nuclear Industries), University of Central Lancashire, Clive Smith OBE, Nuclear Director, Cogent (also representing the National Skills Academy for Nuclear), Robert Skelton, Vice President, Institution of Nuclear Engineers, and Michael Grave, Vice President, British Nuclear Energy Society gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 July at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 9 July 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Ian Cawsey

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 16 July at 9.00am.]

Tuesday 15 July 2008

Mr Phil Willis, Dr Roberta Blackman Woods, Dr Brian Iddon and Dr Bob Spink visited Sizewell B, Leiston, in connection with the inquiry into Engineering: Nuclear Engineering.

Wednesday 16 July 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman Woods

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Ian Cawsey

Mr Graham Stringer

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Evan Harris

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Draft Apprenticeships Bill*

Resolved, That the Committee hold an inquiry into the Draft Apprenticeships Bill.

3. *Nuclear Engineering*

Dr Ian Hudson, Engineering, Technology & Skills Director, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Alex Walsh, Head of Civil Nuclear Programmes, BAE Systems, Fiona Ware, Vice President Operational Excellence and Transformation, AMEC's Nuclear Business, Bill Bryce, Chair, New Build Working Group, Nuclear Industry Association, David Barber, Head of Technical Training, British Energy, Adrian Bull, UK Stakeholder Relations Manager, Westinghouse, Dr Mike Weightman, HM Chief Inspector, Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, and Robert Davies, Marketing Director, Areva, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 6 October at 4.00pm.]

Monday 6 October 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Ian Cawsey

Ian Stewart

Dr Ian Gibson

Mr Rob Wilson

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Draft Apprenticeships Bill*

Richard Wainer, Head of Education and Skills, CBI, David Frost, Director General, British Chambers of Commerce, Anne Seaman, Chief Executive, Skillsmart Retail, Matthew Jaffa, Acting Deputy Head of Policy, Federation of Small Businesses; Martin Dunford, Chairman, Association of Learning Providers, Sara Mogel, Association of Colleges, Tom Wilson, Head, Organisation and Services Department, TUC; and David

Way, National Director of Apprenticeships, LSC, Marinos Paphitis, Regional Director, LSC South East, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 8 October at 9.00am.

Wednesday 8 October 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Renewable electricity generation technologies: Government Response

Draft Special Report (*Renewable electricity-generation technologies: Government Response to the Committee's Fifth Report of Session 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Committee's Fifth Report was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Eighth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

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

3. Engineering: Geo-engineering Case Study

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to Geo-engineering be reported to the House for publication on the internet: Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills; Edinburgh Collaborative of Subsurface Science and Engineering; School of Engineering and Electronics and the School of Geosciences at the University of Edinburgh; Mark E Capron, Professional Civil Engineer, POD Energy; Stephen Salter, Emeritus Professor of Engineering Design, School of Engineering and Electronics,

University of Edinburgh; Professor Brian Launder, School of MACE, University of Manchester; Dan Lunt, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol; Joint Response from the BGA, Royal Astronomical Society, Institute of Physics and the Environmental and Industrial Geophysics group of the Geological Society of London (EIGG); The Royal Academy of Engineering; Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research; Colin Forrest; Ground Forum; John Nissen; NOCS (National Oceanography Centre, Southampton); Research Councils UK; John Gorman; John Latham; Dr Ken Caldeira, Department of Global Ecology, Carnegie Institution; Professor James Griffiths and Professor Iain Stewart; David Hutchinson; Engineering Professors' Council; Institution of Mechanical Engineers; Engineering Group of the Geological Society of London; The Royal Society; and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

4. Biosecurity in UK research laboratories

Ordered, That the Memorandum relating to *Biosecurity in UK research laboratories* submitted by the Government be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Monday 13 October at 4.00pm.]

Monday 13 October 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Evan Harris

Graham Stringer

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Rob Wilson

Mr Gordon Marsden

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Engineering: Geo-engineering case study

Ordered, That Professor Peter Liss be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Geo-engineering.

3. Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills Departmental Report 2008

Ian Watmore, Permanent Secretary, Bill Dickinson, Director General, Finance and Corporate, Services, and Zina Etheridge, Director, Strategy and Communications, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 15 October at 9.00am.

Wednesday 15 October 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Monday 27 October at 4.00pm.

Saturday 18-25 October 2005

Mr Phil Willis, Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods, Mr Tim Boswell, Dr Brian Iddon, Ian Stewart and Dr Desmond Turner visited China and Japan in connection with the inquiry into engineering.

Monday 27 October 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Rob Wilson

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the Draft Apprenticeships Bill

Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, Department for Children, Schools and Families, Lord Young of Norwood Green, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills and Apprenticeships, and John Landeryou, Director of Learning Quality and Systems, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 29 October at 9.00am.

Wednesday 29 October 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Tim Boswell

Ian Stewart

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Rob Wilson

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Students and universities

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into students and universities.

3. DIUS Departmental Annual Report

Rt Hon John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and Ian Watmore, Permanent Secretary, Department for Innovation Universities and Skills gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 3 November at 4.00pm.

Monday 3 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Ian Cawsey

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Engineering: Nuclear Engineering*

Mr Mike O'Brien MP, Minister of State, Mr Michael Sugden, Project Manager, Waste and Decommissioning, and Dr Nicola Baggley, Director, Nuclear Strategy, Department of Energy and Climate Change gave oral evidence.

3. *Engineering: Plastic Electronics Engineering*

Lord Drayson, Minister of State, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and Lord Carter of Barnes, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 5 November at 9.00am.]

Wednesday 5 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Evan Harris

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Engineering: Engineering in Government*

Ordered, that Professor Sir Roy Anderson be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into engineering in Government.

3. DIUS's Departmental Annual Report

Professor John Beddington, Government Chief Scientific Adviser, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 10 November at 4.00pm.]

Monday 10 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Ian Gibson

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Evan Harris

Ian Stewart

Dr Brian Iddon

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Engineering: Geo-Engineering

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to Geo-Engineering be reported to the House for publication on the internet: John Gorman; Ian Main and Gary Couples, Director and Co-director of the Edinburgh Collaborative of Subsurface Science and Engineering; Joint submission by the School of Engineering and Electronics and the School of Geosciences at the University of Edinburgh; Mark E Capron, Professional Civil Engineer, POEnergy; Stephen Salter, Emeritus Professor of Engineering Design, School of Engineering and Electronics, University of Edinburgh; Professor Brian Launder, School of MACE, University of Manchester; Dan Lunt, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol; Joint Response from the BGA, Royal Astronomical Society, Institute of Physics and the Environmental and Industrial Geophysics group of the Geological Society of London (EIGG); The Royal Academy of Engineering; Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research; Colin Forrest; Ground Forum; John Nissen; NOCS (National Oceanography Centre, Southampton); Research Councils UK; DIUS; John Latham; Dr Ken Caldeira, Department of Global Ecology, Carnegie Institution; Professor James Griffiths and Professor Iain Stewart; David Hutchinson; Engineering Professors' Council; Institution of Mechanical Engineers; Engineering Group of the Geological Society of London; The Royal Society; Defra; Greenpeace.

Professor Brian Launder, University of Manchester, Dr Dan Lunt, University of Bristol, Dr David Santillo, Greenpeace, Professor Stephen Salter, University of Edinburgh, Professor Ken Caldeira, Carnegie Institution (via video link), Professor Klaus Lackner, Columbia University, and Dr Vicky Pope, Met Office gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 12 November at 9.00am.

Wednesday 12 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Evan Harris

Dr Desmond Turner

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Putting Science and Engineering at the heart of Government policy

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into putting science and engineering at the heart of government policy.

3. Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council

Professor David Delpy, Chief Executive and Mr John Armitt, Chairman, EPSRC, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 17 November at 4.00pm.

Monday 17 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Ian Gibson

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the Sub-Committee on After Leitch: Implementing Skills and Training Policies be discharged and a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider Geo-engineering.

Ordered, That all Members of the Committee be Members of the Sub-Committee.

Ordered, That Mr Phil Willis be the Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 19 November at 9.00am.

Wednesday 19 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Ian Cawsey

Ian Stewart

1. *The Committee's Programme of Work*

The Committee considered this matter.

2. *Engineering: Geo-engineering*

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to *Geo-Engineering* be reported to the House for publication on the internet: Professor K Lackner, Columbia University; Professor Steve Rayner, Said Business School, Oxford University.

3. *Engineering: Engineering in Government*

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to *Engineering in Government* be reported to the House for publication on the internet: Department for innovation, Universities, Science and Skills; Professor David Fisk, Imperial College London; Semta;

Royal Academy of Engineering; Institution of Engineering and Technology; Engineering and Technology Board; Engineering Council UK; Prospect; The Royal Society; Research Councils UK; Campaign for Science & Engineering; Sir Martin Sweeting; and Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL).

Professor David Fisk, Imperial College London, Professor Michael Kelly, Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Communities and Local Government, Professor Wendy Hall, Member, Council for Science and Technology, Lord Broers, former President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and Professor Christopher Snowden, Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of the University of Surrey, representing the Royal Academy of Engineering gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 24 November at 4.00pm.

Monday 24 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Evan Harris

1. The Committee's Programme of Work

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Pre-legislative scrutiny of the Draft Apprenticeships Bill

The Committee discussed informally the Chairman's draft Report.

Draft Report (*Pre-legislative Scrutiny of the Draft Apprenticeships Bill*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

(The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Seventh Report of the Committee, HC 1062.)

3. Biosecurity in UK research laboratories

Draft Special Report (*Biosecurity in UK research laboratories: Government response to the Sixth Report from the Committee, Session 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Committee's Sixth Report was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Ninth Special Report of the Committee to the House.

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

4. *Investigating the Oceans*

Ordered, That the following Memorandum relating to Investigating the Oceans be reported to the House for publication on the internet: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

5. *Petitions to the House*

The Committee considered a petition to the House relating to the proposed closure of the University of Cumbria's Ambleside campus.

[Adjourned till Monday 8 December at 4.00pm]

Proceedings of the Copyright Tribunal Sub-Committee

Monday 28 January 2008

Members present:

Dr Ian Gibson, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Brian Iddon

Mr Ian Cawsey

Mr Phil Willis

1. The Copyright Tribunal

Dominic McGonigal, Director of Government Relations, Phonographic Performance Limited, Richard Combes, Head of Rights & Licensing, Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS), Nigel Warburton, Author (ALCS), and Tim Padfield, Chair, Libraries and Archives Copyright Alliance; HH Judge Fysh QC, Chairman of the Copyright Tribunal, Ian Fletcher, Chief Executive, Edmund Quilty, Copyright and IP Enforcement Director, and Andrew Layton, Trade Marks and Designs Director, Intellectual Property Office, gave oral evidence.

Proceedings of the Biosecurity in UK Research Laboratories Sub-Committee

Monday 17 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Ian Cawsey

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Ian Gibson

1. Biosecurity in UK research laboratories

Sir Bill Callaghan, former chair of Health and Safety Commission, Chairman of the review of the regulatory framework for handling animal pathogens, Professor George Griffin, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP), Dr Paul Logan, Principal Specialist Inspector, Specialised Industries Division, HSE, Dr Matthew Penrose, Principal Specialist Inspector, Specialised Industries Division, HSE, Dr Ruth Lysons, Deputy Director, Food & Farming Group and Nick Coulson, Head of International Animal Health, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 31 March at 4.00pm.]

Monday 31 March 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Ian Cawsey

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Ian Gibson

1. Biosecurity in UK research laboratories

Professor Chris Thorns Science Director, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Dr John Stephenson, Director of Research and Development, Health Protection Agency, Mr Steve Visscher, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council interim Chief Executive, Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Chief Executive, Medical Research Council, Professor Martin Shirley, Director, Institute for Animal Health, Professor Robin Weiss, President, Society for General Microbiology, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 21 April at 4.00pm.]

Monday 21 April 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Evan Harris

Mr Ian Cawsey

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Ian Gibson

1. Biosecurity in UK research laboratories

Lord McKenzie of Luton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions, Rt Hon Dawn Primarolo MP, Minister of State, Department of Health, Ian Pearson MP, Minister of State, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, and Rt Hon Lord Rooker of Perry Bar, Minister of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, gave oral evidence.

Proceedings of the After Leitch: Implementing Skills and Training Policies Sub-Committee

Wednesday 14 May 2008

The Committee met at Leeds Town Hall, Leeds

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman Woods

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Tim Boswell

1. After Leitch: Implementing Skills and Training Policies

Ms Liz Wallis, Managing Director, Digital 2010, Professor Geoff Layer, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Learning and Teaching, University of Bradford, Dr Roger Bennett, Principal, North Lindsey College, Mr Gary Williamson, Executive Director, Leeds Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Ms Linda Florance, Chief Executive, Skillfast UK, Mr Mark Andrews, Chief Executive, NG Bailey, Mr Tom Smith, Principal Adviser, Barnsley Learning Net, and Ms Ruth Adams, Head of Skills, Yorkshire Forward, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 4 June at 9.00am

Wednesday 4 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods

Mr Gordon Marsden

Mr Tim Boswell

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

Ian Stewart

1. Declaration of interests

Members disclosed their interests, pursuant to the resolution of the House of 13 July 1992. (See Appendix).

2. After Leitch: Implementing Skills and training Policies

Mick Fletcher, Education Consultant, Professor Alison Fuller, Professor of Education and Work, School of Education, University of Southampton, Professor Alison Wolf, Sir Roy Griffiths Professor of Public Sector Management, Department of Management, King's College London, Professor Lorna Unwin, Faculty of Policy and Society, Institute of Education, University of London, Dr Philip Wright, Director of Science and Technology, Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), Ms Lee Hopley, Senior Economist, Engineering Employers Federation (EEF), Matthew Jaffa, Skills Policy Adviser, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), and Graham Schuhmacher, Head of Learning Services, Rolls Royce Plc gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 25 June at 9.00am

Appendix

Mr Tim Boswell Member of the Skills Commission

Mr Gordon Marsden Member of the Skills Commission

Wednesday 25 June 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Ian Cawsey

Ian Stewart

Dr Brian Iddon

Dr Des Turner

Mr Gordon Marsden

1. After Leitch: Implementing Skills and training Policies

Chris Humphries, Chief Executive, UK Commission for Employment and Skills, Teresa Sayers, Chief Executive, Financial Services Skills Council, Tom Bewick, Chief Executive, Creative and Cultural Skills, Frank Lord, Chair, Alliance Employment & Skills Board, Steven Broomhead, Chief Executive, Northwest Regional Development Agency, David Hughes, Regional Director, Learning and Skills Council (LSC) London, and David

Cragg, National Director, Adult Learning and Employment, Learning and Skills Council gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 July at 9.00am

Wednesday 9 July 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Ian Cawsey

Ian Stewart

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

1. After Leitch: Implementing Skills and training Policies

Dr David Collins, President of the Association of Colleges and Principal of South Cheshire College, Dr Malcolm McVicar, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), representing Million+, Professor David Eastwood, Chief Executive, HEFCE, Professor Deian Hopkin, Vice Chancellor, London South Bank University, representing Universities UK, Tom Wilson, Head of the TUC Organisation and Services Department, TUC, Wes Streeting, President, NUS, Anne Madden, Head of Education, Skills and Employability Policy, Equality and Human Rights Commission, and Alan Tuckett, Director, NIACE gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 8 October at 9.00am.

Wednesday 8 October 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Mr Gordon Marsden

Ian Cawsey

Ian Stewart

Dr Ian Gibson

Dr Desmond Turner

Dr Brian Iddon

1. After Leitch: Implementing Skills and training Policies

Rt Hon David Lammy MP, Minister of State and Mr Stephen Marston, Director General of Further Education and Skills, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills gave oral evidence.

Proceedings of the Investigating the Oceans Sub-Committee

Tuesday 22 April 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Ian Gibson

Ian Stewart

Dr Brian Iddon

1. Investigating the Oceans

Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State and Professor Robert Watson, Chief Scientific Adviser, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs gave oral evidence.

Proceedings of the Quality Assurance Agency's Recent Reports on Standards in Universities Sub-Committee

Thursday 17 July 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Mr Tim Boswell

Rob Wilson

Dr Evan Harris

1. The Quality Assurance Agency's Recent Reports on Standards in Universities

Members disclosed their interests, pursuant to the resolution of the House of 13 July 1992. (See Appendix).

Peter Williams, Chief Executive, Dr Stephen Jackson, Director of Reviews, Nick Harris, Director of Development and Enhancement Group, and Douglas Blackstock, Director of Administration, Quality Assurance Agency, gave oral evidence.

Appendix

Name	Interests
Mr Phil Willis MP	Member of the Court of University of Birmingham
Mr Tim Boswell MP	Member of the governing board of the University of Wales Institute Cardiff and a member of the Court of Nottingham University
Dr Evan Harris MP	Member of the Court of Oxford Brookes University
Rob Wilson MP	Member of the Court of Reading University

Proceedings of the Geo-Engineering Sub-Committee

Monday 17 November 2008

Members present:

Mr Phil Willis, in the Chair

Dr Ian Gibson

Mr Gordon Marsden

Dr Brian Iddon

1. Geo-engineering

Dr Tim Fox, Institute of Mechanical Engineers, Professor Steve Rayner, Said Business School, University of Oxford, Dr Phil Williamson, Natural Environment Research Council, on behalf of Research Councils UK, Professor Nick Jenkins, University of Cardiff, on behalf of the Royal Academy of Engineering, Lord Drayson, Minister of State for Science and Innovation, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Joan Ruddock MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, and Professor Bob Watson, Chief Science Adviser, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, gave oral evidence.