

Cross Party Group on Science and Technology

Minute of Inaugural Meeting to Establish Group 6 September 2016

1. Attendance

MSPs: Clare Adamson; Iain Gray; Murdo Fraser; Liam McArthur; Daniel Johnson; Maree Todd.

Non-MSPs: Bristow Muldoon; William Hardie (both Royal Society of Edinburgh).

2. Other MSP members of the Group

Patrick Harvie; Ross Thomson; Tavish Scott; Elizabeth Smith.

3. Organisational members

The Royal Society of Edinburgh; Royal Society of Chemistry; Royal Society of Biology; Institute of Physics; Cancer Research UK; Microbiology Society; Scottish Gas & Centrica; Scottish Funding Council; Edinburgh Mathematical Society.

4. Purpose of the Group & likely topics

The purpose of the group is to promote opportunities for MSPs and the scientific community in Scotland to interact on issues of importance to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine.

The broad science community makes a major contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of Scotland. Many of our universities are highly ranked within the UK and internationally for the excellence of their research capacity.

Of the CPGs established so far in the current Parliament there does not appear to be extensive overlap, with the possible exception of the Renewable Energy CPG, where there could be some small overlap. This proposed CPG covers a far broader range of issues and would be likely to cover energy issues occasionally.

Among topics that it is likely that the CPG would cover in the coming year are:

The implications of Brexit on science

IT and the games industry

5. Proposed Office Bearers

Convenor: Clare Adamson; Deputy Convenor: Iain Gray; Secretary: Bristow Muldoon (RSE & RSC). To be ratified at first meeting after registration.

6. Financial benefits

The Royal Society of Edinburgh and Royal Society of Chemistry jointly provide secretariat support of the value of £750 per annum. These two organisations and others are likely to provide catering services at meetings of around £500 per annum. These costs will be monitored and updated if they are seen to be varying from these estimates.