

Science Policy Newsletter – a weekly round-up of policy headlines and stories

13 June 2018

News

Royal Society of Biology news

[RSB Fellows and Members recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours list](#)

A number of RSB Members and Fellows have been recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours list, including one of the founding Trustees for the Society.

Health and biomedicine

[Changing organ and tissue donation](#)

Legislation for a soft opt out system introduced to Parliament.

[Brussels criticised for delays in banning toxic chemicals](#)

European commission's inaction is putting people's health at risk, law firm says.

Food and drink

[Committee examines health effects of energy drinks](#)

The Science and Technology Committee seeks to collect evidence on possible effects that energy drinks consumption have on the mental and physical health of children and young people.

Agriculture and fishery

[£23.5m in small grants allocated to boost farming productivity](#)

The Countryside Productivity Small Grants scheme has seen popular take-up by farmers after the first funding round.

[Welsh and UK Governments host key Brexit meeting with farmers, the fishing industry and business](#)

Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths and Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns will today [Wednesday 7 June] jointly host a key Brexit meeting with farmers, the fishing industry and business.

Environment and ecology

[Government's environmental principles and governance consultation examined](#)

The Environmental Audit Committee explores whether the consultation's proposals meet the Government's ambitions to create a 'world-leading' environmental watchdog and provide insight into how it could be established and implemented.

[World-leading 'Blue Belt' expands as new marine protections revealed](#)

On World Oceans Day, government launches consultation to protect rare sea life and threatened marine habitats around English coast.

[Marine science needs more support to thrive post-Brexit](#)

Creating a minister for the marine environment would help to coordinate policy areas and remedy decades of underfunding, says Matt Frost of the Marine Biological Association.

Climate and energy

[Strong progress on climate change](#)

Greenhouse gas emissions reduced by nearly half.

[Businesses, NGOs make joint plea for higher EU ambition on climate change](#)

A unique coalition of businesses and investors representing over €21 trillion in assets have joined forces with local authorities and civil society groups to urge EU leaders to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy in order to keep global warming below 2°C.

[How can climate policy stay on top of a growing mountain of data?](#)

Tracking all the relevant publications on climate change has become impossible. Climate science and policy need a new approach for an age of big literature

Waste

[Government steps up the fight against waste criminals](#)

Fight to tackle scourge of waste crime takes another step forward today as Michael Gove announces a comprehensive review to beef up the government's approach.

[Smart containers to reward people for recycling properly](#)

Smart recycling containers that reward people for proper use could help drive up the rate of plastic recycling, reducing the amount of plastic that goes into oceans and landfill, and creating business opportunities out of the challenge to cut back on waste.

Government and parliament

[Labour wants progress report on industrial strategy](#)

Shadow business secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey has demanded an update on several important aspects of the government's industrial strategy.

[Secretary of State questioned on work of Department](#)

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee examines the work of Defra, including topics such as Brexit progress, animal welfare, air quality and plastics.

Exiting the EU

[The Wellcome view: Horizon Europe and the UK-EU science deal](#)

Research funding and higher education policy

[Plans to grow Welsh research published in Reid review](#)

Leader of the House, Julie James, today welcomed the publication of the highly-anticipated Reid Review into Government-funded research and innovation in Wales.

Diversity and Inclusion

[What does it take to make an institution more diverse?](#)

Six researchers share their ideas for improving representation

International news

[China introduces sweeping reforms to crack down on academic misconduct](#)

Initiatives include a national list of cases, a blacklist of 'poor quality' journals and a government agency that is responsible for policing misconduct.

[Scientists shocked by mysterious deaths of ancient trees](#)

Opinion

[Time to take fish welfare more seriously](#)

Fish are often seen to be at the bottom of the pile when it comes to how we view animals. The general assumption is that fish are not furry and pettable, and therefore, they fall outside citizens' scope of moral concern, write Reineke Hameleers and Philip Lymbery.

[Where does the TEF go from here?](#)

If future rounds of the Teaching Excellence Framework cannot improve on information already available to students from commercial rankings, it should be dropped, says Paul Ashwin.

Opportunities

[US-Ireland research funding programme now open](#)

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is inviting research institutions in Northern Ireland to apply for funding to participate in joint projects with the United States and the Republic of Ireland that will benefit the local agri-food sector.

Consultations

[Antimicrobial resistance \(AMR\) inquiry launched](#)

The Health and Social Care Committee launches inquiry into how the Government is responding to the challenge of Antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
Closing date 29 June 2018

[Marine Conservation Zones: third tranche of designations](#)

Closes 20 July 2018

[Public consultation on the open method of coordination for EU aquaculture](#)

Closes 20 July 2018.

[Sustainable places: National Development Framework preferred option consultation launched](#)

The Welsh Government has launched its consultation on its Preferred Option for the National Development Framework (NDF). The final version of the NDF is due to be published in September 2020 and will sit alongside Planning Policy Wales (PPW) to set out the Welsh Government's land use policies.

Closes 23 July 2018.

[Public consultation on the Evaluation of the 7th Environment Action Programme](#)

Closes 26 July 2017.

[New environment law to deliver a Green Brexit](#)

Environmental Principles and Governance Bill announced as consultation launches on new body to hold government to account. The RSB response to this consultation is currently in draft. Please contact consultation@rsb.org.uk for more information and if you would like to contribute.

Closes 2 August 2018.

[Public Consultation on the evaluation of the Ozone Regulation](#)

Closes 24 August 2018

[Public consultation on the interim evaluation of the direct management under the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund \(EMFF\)](#)

Closes 3 September 2018.

Events

[Warwick VoYS workshop](#)

15 June 2018, Warwick

The next Standing up for Science workshop is at the University of Warwick on Friday 15 June. Join us to find out how to make your voice heard in public debates about science and evidence.

[MRC Festival of Medical Research 2018 programme launches](#)

14 – 24 June, Nationwide

The third annual MRC Festival of Medical Research will take place from 14–24 June 2018. To find MRC Festival activities near you to attend, take a look at our programme.

[FSA Board meeting papers published for June 2018](#)

20th June 2018, York

The agenda and papers for the FSA's June open Board meeting have been published. The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel in York on Wednesday 20 June 2018. It will begin at 9.00am and will be chaired by FSA Chairman, Heather Hancock. You can attend in person or watch it live online.

Parliamentary Links Day 2018

26 June 2018, London

An annual event organised to strengthen the dialogue between the scientific community, MPs and Peers.

Summer Science Exhibition 2018

2 July - 8 July, London

A free festival celebrating the science shaping our future

State of the World's Fungi Symposium

13 - 14 September 2018, Surrey

Join scientists and policymakers for our first ever two-day symposium on the State of the World's Fungi.

And finally...

Faecal transplants could help preserve vulnerable species

New gut bacteria can expand the diet of animals like koalas and rhinoceroses.

Royal Society of Biology

Science Policy Team
Charles Darwin House
12 Roger Street
London
WC1N 2JU
policy@rsb.org.uk

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