

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

17 October 2018

News

Health and biomedicine

[Supply of Investigational Medicinal Products for clinical trials in the event of a no-deal](#)

Guidance for those engaged in clinical trials, regarding continuity of supply of Investigational Medicinal Products (IMPs) in the event of a no-deal.

[Lab-grown oesophagus implanted in mice](#)

[Children 'should be weighed up to age 18', report says](#)

Agriculture and fishery

[Ministers host agri-tech discussions with key global investors](#)

International Trade Secretary today hosts agri-tech industry roundtable at 10 Downing Street.

[Fair funding for farmers across all parts of the UK](#)

Independent panel will look at how funding supports the needs of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

[£30 million commitment to help farmers boost productivity](#)

Further rounds of funding for the popular small grants scheme for farmers has been confirmed.

[Can we use science to better manage our land?](#)

[Sustainable seas examined by Committee](#)

The Environmental Audit Committee continues its inquiry into sustainable seas.

[Non-tariff barriers could prove to be a “killer blow” to the Welsh fishing industry](#)

Frictionless trade and access to EU markets is essential to the survival of the Welsh fishing industry, while non-tariff barriers could deliver a killer blow according to the National Assembly's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.

Environment and ecology

[Minister launches first Green GB Week with Commons statement](#)

Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, Claire Perry, made a statement to the House of Commons on Green GB Week and clean growth.

[Invasion of the 'frankenbees': the danger of building a better bee](#)

Beekeepers are sounding the alarm about the latest developments in genetically modified pollinators.

[Humanity is 'cutting down the tree of life', warn scientists](#)

More than 300 mammal species have been eradicated by human activities, say researchers.

[IWT Conference 2018: Declaration commits over 50 countries to action for endangered species](#)

Successful 2018 Illegal Wildlife Trade conference comes to a close in London.

[Flying success for Bats in Churches project](#)

The Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded £3.8 million for a project led by Natural England to save bats and protect churches.

[Recorded cases of bird of prey poisonings at record low](#)

2017 saw only one recorded incident of illegal bird of prey poisoning in Scotland, according to new maps published by the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Scotland.

Climate and energy

[Sam Gyimah: Green GB Week Clean Energy Innovation Summit](#)

A speech to the Green GB Week Clean Energy Innovation Summit by the Science Minister Sam Gyimah at County Hall (London).

[Climate experts asked for advice on net zero target](#)

Climate experts will advise the government on whether the UK should set a date for a net zero emissions target.

[UK's largest companies pledge hundreds of millions of pounds to tackle climate change](#)

Some of the UK's biggest business names - from financial services to the high street – are among 30 firms pledging action to tackle climate change during first-ever Green GB & NI Week.

[Climate change is about to make your beer more expensive](#)

Extreme weather events are expected to reduce global barley production.

Government and Parliament

[UK visa system 'working against academic exchange'](#)

The risks of being denied entry to the country, coupled with high visa application costs, give the impression that the UK is "not open for academic exchange", according to a member of the House of Lords.

Research funding and higher education policy

[Gyimah: EU needs UK cash for Horizon Europe](#)

UK contributions to the next European Union R&D programme will be essential if the bloc wants to hit its target of channelling €100 billion (£88bn) through the scheme, science minister Sam Gyimah has said.

[£32 million competition launched for AMR research](#)

DHSC will award up to £32 million of capital funding to the NHS, universities and research organisations for research into antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

[Newcastle head to lead REF environment pilot](#)

Chris Day, vice-chancellor and president of Newcastle University, is to chair the environment pilot panel for the next iteration of the Research Excellence Framework.

Schools education policy

[Put evidence at the heart of education decision-making, says joint British Academy and Royal Society report](#)

The UK government spends billions on education each year, but has a dwindling supply of evidence-based researchers to help them make crucial decisions on how to best use this funding, says a report on the state of educational research in the UK.

Open access and publication policy

[Plan S processing charges could create 'scientific dystopia'](#)

Young academics from across Europe have warned that the open-access initiative Plan S could lead to further divisions between researchers if the wrong publishing model is followed.

Ethics

[Reproduction revolution: how our skin cells might be turned into sperm and eggs](#)

Scientists may soon be able to create human sperm and eggs using ordinary cells – a boon for those with fertility problems that raises troubling ethical questions.

International news

[Bahrain applies to Green Climate Fund to help clean up waste from fossil fuels](#)

Oil-rich kingdom says money is needed to protect against water scarcity but request sparks strong criticism and fears over the fitness of the public fund.

[Canada becomes second country to legalise recreational marijuana](#)

[The wide world of weed research](#)

As Canada lifts most of its restrictions on studying cannabis, here's a look at how the rest of the world is faring.

[China awaits controversial blacklist of 'poor quality' journals](#)

But some researchers say the policy won't succeed in improving research quality.

Opportunities

[BSI mentoring scheme launch](#)

12-15 early career scientists will be paired up with experienced immunologists from different host institutions. Over a 12 month period, mentors and mentees will hold a series of meetings that can be used to discuss career development, barriers faced at work and overcoming tough work situations.

Closes 21 October 2018.

[Diversity in Science Grants](#)

The Biochemical Society's Diversity in Science Grants scheme provides grants of up to £500 to support and address issues relating to diversity in science.

Closes 31 October 2018.

[Working together to improve our water quality](#)

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is inviting people to join them to identify ways to work together to improve the quality of our water and waterbodies.

Consultations

[Draft guidance and criteria set out detailed arrangements for REF 2021](#)

The UK's four higher education funding bodies have published the draft guidance and criteria on making submissions to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, for consultation. 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 15 October 2018.

[Veterinary Medicines if there is no Brexit deal](#)

A summary outline of changes in respect of veterinary medicines - please send your comments by no later than 19 October 2018.

[Technologies for meeting Clean Growth emissions reduction targets inquiry](#)

The Science and Technology Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the technologies needed to meet Clean Growth emissions reduction targets.

Closes 26 October 2018.

[MHRA to consult on EU exit no-deal legislative proposals](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has today opened a consultation on how its legislation and regulatory processes would have to be modified in the event of the UK not securing a deal with the EU after the UK's exit, with no Implementation Period.

Closes 1 November 2018

[Public consultation for the evaluation of the EU drug precursors regulations](#)

Closes 2 November 2018.

[Farmers, growers and processors asked for views on AHDB](#)

A 10-week exercise is seeking views on the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB).
Closes 9 November 2018.

[Public asked for views on banning energy drink sales to children](#)

The consultation is part of the government's plan to reduce childhood obesity and other health problems in children.
Closes 21 November 2018.

Events

[You and AI at the Manchester Science Festival](#)

28 October, Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester

Throughout 2018, we've brought you the world's leading thinkers on Artificial Intelligence.

Now we're calling on you to pose your questions to our panel of experts, to find out what challenges and opportunities you think AI will present us with in the next decade. Will AI affect our jobs? What risks might AI pose on society? Can we train AIs to make moral and ethical decisions?

Post your questions for our expert panel and we will answer as many as possible.

[Research culture: Changing expectations](#)

29 – 30 October, The Royal Society, London

Research culture: Changing expectations will bring together intertwined debates around research assessment, career progression, researcher development, research dissemination and research integrity. This conference will showcase initiatives and work across the research landscape to continue to create and improve the cultural conditions and environments in which excellent research and researchers can flourish.

[Outreach and Engagement Symposium](#)

14 November, Birmingham

Are you a bioscientist and doing or want to do outreach, public engagement or science communication? If so, this conference is for you! This symposium offers a great chance to gain skills, learn new ways to engage your audiences and get advice on reaching new audiences.

[Science and the Parliament 2018](#)

14 November, Edinburgh

The 17th annual Science and the Parliament event will this year concentrate on Education and Skills.

And finally...

[#iamabiologist, are you a biologist?](#)

Biologists took over twitter for the #iamabiologist campaign held as part of Biology Week 2018.

[Wildlife Photographer of the Year: Gazing monkeys image wins](#)

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

Please note that any views or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Royal Society of Biology.

Manage your subscription to this and to other RSB publications by logging into [mySociety](#) and choosing 'My Subscriptions' under 'Me and the RSB'.

© Royal Society of Biology 2018. Registered Charity Number: 277981
Charles Darwin House, 12 Roger Street, London WC1N 2JU