

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

20 July 2016

### News

#### Royal Society of Biology news

##### [Building a vision for the future – a roadmap for UK plant science](#)

Development of a roadmap for the future of UK plant sciences is vitally important, and intensive activity by the UK Plant Sciences Federation (UKPSF) is now carrying this forward.

#### Government and parliament

##### [Jo Johnson reappointed as universities and science minister](#)

Johnson survives Theresa May's reshuffle.

##### [New ministerial and government appointments announced on July 17 2016](#)

More ministerial and government appointments including Parliamentary Under Secretaries of State and Whips have been announced.

##### [Government axes climate department](#)

##### [May adds energy policy to Business department](#)

##### [Brexit implications for environment policy explored by committee](#)

The EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee questions experts about the possible impact of Brexit on EU and UK environment policy.

### [Research after the Reshuffle](#)

The reshuffle of the last few days has fundamentally changed where research sits within the UK State.

### [Science's status shifts in new Brexit government](#)

Reshuffled UK administration signals change for research and science policy.

### [Will science thrive in the new Government?](#)

CaSE welcomes Theresa May as the new Prime Minister, and examines the opportunities and challenges the new Government structure poses for UK science and engineering.

## Science after Brexit

### [Will Brexit dent doctoral student numbers?](#)

Some believe the momentous referendum result may harm the UK's ability to compete for the world's best PhD students.

### [Here's why science should take a seat at the Brexit negotiation table](#)

The UK's research relationship with the EU works well - Theresa May should use it to help to lubricate Brexit negotiations rather than add to its challenges.

### [Why Brexit may be a deadly experiment for science](#)

EU funding was a vital lifeline for our world-leading scientific research sector.

### [Academies warn Brexit 'damaging science'](#)

## Health and biomedicine

### [Billions are spent on clinical research that gets ignored – here's the answer](#)

Heart failure is a major killer, affecting well over a million people in the UK alone.

## Food and drink

### [Tech innovations that could reduce food waste](#)

From smart fridges to food-sharing apps and intelligent labelling, new products are set to transform the way we consume.

### [£16 million for new technologies to improve global food production and security](#)

Twenty-four innovative agri-tech projects have been awarded a share of £16 million funding through the latest round of the Agri-Tech Catalyst.

### [Surf and turf: bringing crop and fish people together](#)

Terrestrial and aquatic food production systems share a range of common problems that need solutions.

## Agriculture and fishery

### [Scientists call for better plastics design to protect marine life](#)

Improved materials would encourage recycling and prevent single-use containers from entering the oceans and breaking into small pieces.

### [Ancient barley DNA gives insight into crop development](#)

## Forestry

### [Farming and forestry can deliver food security, says UN](#)

## Environment and ecology

### [Scientists warn of 'unsafe' decline in biodiversity](#)

### [2016 could be worst year on record for British butterflies, experts warn](#)

Public asked to take part in annual count to assess the impact of a sunless summer, cool spring and mild winter on butterfly numbers.

### [Countryside faces Brexit anxiety](#)

### [Call for research on emerging pests and invasive species](#)

The most comprehensive report yet on the potential impact of climate change on the UK recommends more research on emerging pests and diseases, as well as on invasive non-native species.

## Climate and energy

### [Algae are melting away the Greenland ice sheet](#)

'Black and Bloom' project explores how microorganisms help to determine the pace of Arctic melting.

## University policy and research funding policy

### [Moedas sets out 10 steps to EIC](#)

The Commission is considering new funding instruments to use under its proposed European Innovation Council, but has pledged that the initiative will not result in a big redistribution of funding from research to innovation.

### [Employers warn of widening skills gap](#)

## Business and industry

### [Policy: Five cornerstones of a global bioeconomy](#)

Beate El-Chichakli and colleagues outline principles for coordinating bio-based industries to achieve many of the sustainable development goals.

### [Collaboration between industry and education set to future-proof the UK's scientific workforce](#)

Our skilled science and technology employees drive the UK's innovation and competitiveness.

## Ethics

### [Brexit and bioethics](#)

It is now three weeks since the UK voted to leave the European Union. This period has been filled with a great deal of anxious and often vituperative debate about the political, economic and social consequences of that decision. What, though, might it mean for bioethics?

### [Children and clinical research: ethical issues – one year on](#)

It's a longstanding tradition of ours to gather Working Parties together again roughly a year after a report has been published, to review developments since publication, and discuss further opportunities for follow-up.

## Other news

### [Politicians, Leadership and Academia](#)

We now have a new Prime Minister. A woman.

### [Why Kickstarter's Glowing Plant Left Backers in the Dark](#)

Do-it-yourself biologists who hit the crowdfunding jackpot have learned that genetic engineering isn't so easy after all.

And finally...

**[Mobile technology helps save rare flowers](#)**

A new app aims to help farmers, agronomists and conservationists to identify and record the UK's most threatened plant species. The Rare Arable Flowers app also provides practical advice on the best way to manage land for these species.

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