

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

8 June 2018

News

Top stories

[EU budget: Commission proposes most ambitious Research and Innovation programme yet](#)

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission is proposing €100 billion for research and innovation.

[Science Minister Sam Gyimah speaks on the importance of international collaboration to research excellence](#)

Minister Sam Gyimah delivered a speech on the ‘importance of international collaboration to research excellence’ at a reception co-hosted by Wellcome Trust and UK Permanent Representative in Brussels.

Royal Society of Biology blog

[The Biologist says goodbye to plastic wrap](#)

The issue will be our first plastic-free edition, in a biodegradable protective wrap rather than polythene. Find out more about this starch-based material, and other initiatives to tackle plastic pollution, on the RSB blog.

Health and biomedicine

[£2.5m to develop new ways to tackle respiratory disease in Wales](#)

Health Secretary, Vaughan Gething, has announced £2.5m of funding to develop new ways to prevent and treat respiratory disease.

[Ovarian cancer 'game changer' drug which holds back disease's return gets first NHS fund approval](#)

Treatment could help thousands of women in coming years after approval for inclusion on NHS Cancer Drugs Fund.

[Antibiotic apocalypse: EU scraps plans to tackle drug pollution, despite fears of rising resistance](#)

Leaked documents reveal discarded proposals to ward off antibiotic resistance through closer scrutiny of drug firms.

Food and drink

[No 'race to the bottom' on food, pledges Gove](#)

Defra secretary Michael Gove has pledged to protect British farmers against substandard food imports as he seeks to avoid a "race to the bottom" after the UK leaves the European Union.

[Good news: Dickeya not detected in Scottish seed and ware potato survey](#)

A survey was undertaken in Scotland to monitor seed and ware tuber production in Scotland for the presence of *Dickeya* spp., in support of Scottish legislation introduced in 2010, which established a "nil" tolerance for *Dickeya* infections in seed crops.

Agriculture and fishery

[European Commission under fire after new CAP proposals unveiled](#)

The European Commission unveiled on Friday (1 June) its plans for the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy, triggering a strong reaction from EU farmers and the environmental community for cutting the budget, giving member states too much leeway and fudging environmental and climate issues.

[Revealed: industrial-scale beef farming comes to the UK](#)

Investigation uncovers about a dozen intensive beef units, despite assurances that US-style practices would not happen here.

Environment and ecology

[Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report released](#)

The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report has been published today by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

[Local authorities, landowners and developers questioned](#)

The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee questions local authorities, landowners and developers as part of the land value capture inquiry.

Climate and energy

[EU outlines renewable energy policy options for 2030](#)

European Union legislators have outlined a compromise deal on the bloc's renewable energy policy for the coming decade, agreeing on a headline objective of 30-33% for 2030, sources said.

[G7 countries pour \\$100bn a year into oil, gas and coal: study](#)

Each year, at least US\$100 billion goes to support the production and consumption of oil, gas and coal, according to a major new study published on Monday (4 June). That is despite a promise from all G7 and G20 members to stop subsidising fossil fuels by 2025.

Waste

[Plastic recycling dilemma in the EU](#)

The EU is in a desperate search for a sustainable circular economy. But critics warn that the imminent adoption of waste recycling targets for 2035 is only a compromise between the very different realities of the 28 countries.

Government and parliament

[UK-Israel strengthen ties with new innovation agreements](#)

Science Minister Sam Gyimah signs landmark agreements with Israel focussing on innovation, ageing and artificial intelligence.

[Ivory Bill: Commons Second Reading](#)

MPs are to debate the Second Reading of the Ivory Bill in the House of Commons on Monday 4 June 2018.

Exiting the EU

[After Brexit, can British science have its cake and eat it, too?](#)

The United Kingdom wants a part in European science programmes after Brexit, but the European Union could put a high price on it.

Business and industry

[UK businesses challenged to reduce their paper usage as environmental impact reaches all-time high](#)

A new campaign has been launched to challenge businesses to reduce their paper usage, following recent research which found that a third of UK workers admit to printing out unnecessary paper documents every single day.

Equality and diversity

[Women professors, pay, promotion, and academic housekeeping](#)

International news

[Cholera 'third wave' threatens Yemen](#)

A new outbreak of cholera can be expected in Yemen as a result of the rainy season that began in mid-April, a study suggests.

[New Zealand to slaughter 150,000 cows to wipe out painful disease](#)

The country is trying to eradicate Mycoplasma bovis, a disease that causes mastitis, pneumonia, and arthritis in cows. Authorities insist the decision is to stop future production losses and is unrelated to food safety.

[US EPA science advisers question 'secret science' rule on data transparency](#)

Independent board will review agency decisions to repeal or change climate regulations and rules on the use of non-public data.

[Training the next generation of One Health professionals](#)

One Health programmes are on the rise -- It's time to set some core standards

Opinion

[Paris climate pullout: the worst is yet to come](#)

People

[Dr Peter Groves to be new chair of the Devices Expert Advisory Committee](#)

Dr Peter Groves has been appointed as chairman of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's (MHRA) Devices Expert Advisory Committee (DEAC).

[New Government Chemist appointed](#)

The government announced today that Dr Julian Braybrook has been appointed as the new Government Chemist.

[New Chair of the Met Office appointed](#)

The government has today (4 June) announced Rob Woodward as the new Chair of the Met Office.

Opportunities

[New Chair sought for the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food \(ACMSF\)](#)

The Food Standards Agency Chair, Heather Hancock, is inviting applications to fill the post of Chair of the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF). The ACMSF is the independent expert committee which advises the FSA on microbiological food safety.

Deadline for applications 18 June 2018.

[Strength in Places Fund call open](#)

UK Research and Innovation's Strength in Places Fund (SIPF) is an ambitious scheme that will help areas of lower economic activity benefit from the world-class research and innovation capability spread across the UK.

Deadline for applications 25 July 2018.

[Announcement of Opportunity: Peruvian Glacial Retreat and its Impact on Water Security & Resilience to Natural Hazards](#)

Proposals are invited for a new collaborative research programme between NERC and the National Council for Science, Technology & Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC), which aims to provide an improved understanding of the rate of glacial retreat in Peru and the impact of this on water security and natural hazards.

Deadline 8 August 2018.

Consultations

[Consultation on the UK Nutrient Profiling Model 2018 review](#)

Closes 15 June 2018.

[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

[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.

Parliamentary Links Day 2018

26 June 2018, London

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

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...

[Pollution hits the fungi that nourish European trees](#)

Pollution is changing the fungi that provide mineral nutrients to tree roots, which could explain malnutrition trends in Europe's trees.

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