

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills Company and Business Names Consultation

Science Council response

The Science Council

1. The Science Council is an umbrella organisation of 40 learned societies and professional bodies in the UK drawn from across science and its applications: a list of member organisations is attached. It was established by Royal Charter in 2003 with the object of advancing science and its applications for public benefit.
2. Under its Royal Charter the Science Council works to advance the professional practice of science through the licensing of the professional qualifications of Chartered Scientist¹ (CSci) and Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach) to its qualifying Member Bodies. Chartered Scientist is set at the same high level as other chartered titles such as Chartered Mathematician and Chartered Engineer, and denotes scientific knowledge and experience, and a high level of professional competence and commitment.
3. Since 2012 the Science Council has also licensed the professional qualifications of Registered Science Technician (RSciTech) and Registered Scientist (RSci) to its qualifying Member Bodies.

Do you think all regulations relating to names should be repealed? Please give reasons for your answer.

4. The Science Council supports the continuing professional development of the science workforce through the licensing of professional titles. Professional titles in science are a mark of recognition for individuals that have satisfied and continue to maintain a high level of competence in their given field. As such they increase the public's confidence and trust in science and scientists through professional standards, codes of conduct and mandatory revalidation.
5. Removing protection for professional titles and the names associated with professional membership and registration would increase the risk to the public of the use of the titles by those misrepresenting as having the knowledge skills and experience of those who have acquired titles and qualifications through the proper process. To remove the protection would also send a signal that the Government does not value professional qualifications or the role and services of the professional bodies.

Do you think regulations relating to names should be retained but reduced and simplified? Please give reasons for your answer.

6. The Science Council strongly believes that it is in the public interest to maintain a list of regulated names and titles so as to minimise the potential for inconsistency and confusion. As such we recommend that the regulations should be retained but simplified.

¹ <http://www.charteredscientist.org/about-csci>

Do you think the list of “sensitive” words should be reduced? If so, which words would you recommend for removal and why?

7. The Science Council’s Member Bodies continue to use a number of names currently on the "sensitive" words list. These include:

Accredit	Accreditation
Accredited	Accrediting
Association	Authority
Charitable	Charity
Charter	Chartered
Council	Institute
Institution	Register
Registered	Registrar
Registration	Regulation
Royal	Society

8. The use and meaning of these terms in the context of professionalism is long-standing. They have clear legal origins and are terms that the public understands and are comfortable with. The Science Council believes that removal of any of these names from the “sensitive” words list could lead to unrestricted rights of use and create a situation where all types of organisations might adopt them, confusing the public and undermining the reputation and value of the public benefit services currently associated with them.
9. For example, a number of the Science Council’s Member Bodies have “Institute”, “Institution”, in their title.² Removal of either or both of these terms from the “sensitive” words list could result in the formation of organisations that adopts comparable names to that of already established Bodies, and would mislead the public by falsely conveying authority, status or pre-eminence to which they were not entitled. The terms are not interchangeable so both should be retained.
10. The Science Council would urge the Government to retain “Charter” and “Chartered” on the list of “sensitive” words. The awarding of chartered status is granted to individuals deemed appropriately qualified to practice by an organisation incorporated under Royal Charter granted by the Privy Council. The Science Council has a number of its Member Bodies established by Royal Charter.³
11. The Science Council considers that the recent proposal to use of the term ‘Chartered’ as a quality mark for by further education institutions would be misleading and inappropriate and has strongly opposed this. Chartered titles are recognised globally as a standard of knowledge and professionalism. Using chartered status as a statutory quality mark for institutions risks confusing the public and risks devaluing the prestige that chartered status confers on the individuals. Professional bodies, including the Science Council, have worked for many years to establish as Chartered Status as an esteemed professional award and a valuable UK export⁴.

² Institute of Biomedical Science, Institute of Brewing and Distilling, Institute of Clinical Research, Institute of Corrosion, Institute of Food Science and Technology, Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology, Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, Institute of Measurement and Control, Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine, Institute of Physics, Institute of Science and Technology, Institute of Water, Institution of Chemical Engineers, Institution of Environmental Sciences.

³ Association for Science Education; BCS The Chartered Institute for IT; British Psychological Society; Chartered Institution of Water and Environment Management; Geological Society; Institute of Physics; Institute of Mathematics and its Applications; Institution of Chemical Engineers; Royal Society of Chemistry; and Society of Biology.

⁴ http://www.professionsforgood.com/?page_id=711

Do you think the list of words on the “same as” list should be reduced? If so, which words would you recommend for removal?

No Comment

Diana Garnham Chief Executive

May 2013



**Member Bodies of the Science Council
May 2013**

1. Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine*
2. Association of Neurophysiological Scientists*
- 3 Association for Science Education**/ ***
4. British Academy of Audiology
5. British Association of Sport and Exercise Science

6. British Computer Society*
7. British Psychological Society*
8. British Society of Soil Scientists*
9. Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management*
10. College of Podiatry
11. Energy Institute*
12. Geological Society of London*
13. Institute of Biomedical Science*/ **
14. Institute of Brewing and Distilling*
15. Institute of Clinical Research*
16. Institute of Corrosion*
17. Institute of Food Science and Technology*/ **
18. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology*
19. Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining*
20. Institute of Mathematics and its Applications*
21. Institute of Measurement and Control
22. Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine*/ **
23. Institute of Physics
24. Institute of Science and Technology**
25. Institute of Water*
26. Institution of Chemical Engineers*/ **
27. Institution of Environmental Sciences*
28. London Mathematical Society
29. Mineralogical Society*
30. Nuclear Institute*
31. Oil and Colour Chemists' Association*
32. Physiological Society
33. Royal Astronomical Society
34. Royal Meteorological Society
35. Royal Society of Chemistry*/ **
36. Royal Statistical Society*
37. Society for Cardiological Science and Technology
38. Society for General Microbiology
39. Society of Biology*/ **
40. Society of Dyers & Colourists

* Licensed to award Chartered Scientist (CSci)

** Licensed to award Registered Scientist (RSci) and Registered Science Technician (RSciTech)

***Licensed to award Chartered Science Teacher (CSciTeach)