

Policy Forum Meeting 16th November 2020

Present: Sarah Garry BSSS, Joseph Lewis IES, Rob Massey RAS, Flo Bullough GOL, Rachel Stonehouse IOM3, Sarah Beacock NI, Arthur Nicholas IST, Tanya Sheridan RSC, Linda Horan, IAT.

Dan Ward – IES – for the first half of the meeting to deliver a presentation

Apologies; Liz Bentley RMETS, Bev McKenzie, IMarest, Sean Edmunds IPEM, Laura Marshall RSB,

1) **Sustainability Presentation - Dan Ward at IES** (made available by email and on the membership shared area)

Dan delivered a presentation showcasing the path IES are taking to become a sustainable organisation.

2) **Terms of Reference (available via the members area)**

The meeting agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference presented at the Sept meeting.

3) **Organisational Updates**

RAS Undertaking a carbon audit, looking at implications of the outcomes of the spending review, coupled with the content of the speech delivered by Ottnline Leyser, CEO, UKRI at the CASE Annual Conference; RAS are making representation on behalf of PhD students – earlier government promised to extend PhD student grants and therefore funding. This has been replaced by being told they should shrink projects to accommodate COVID. Essentially being told to be less ambitious, in essence – no extension to the money on studentships.

All Party Parliamentary Group on Diversity and Inclusion in STEM launched a consultation on the 10th November -Diversity and Inclusion in STEM - How governments and HEI's employ stem workers. RAS will be responding.

[New Inquiry: Equity in the STEM workforce | British Science Association](#)

RSC RSC has published a report on the chemistry workforce and the contribution of chemistry to the UK economy showing the breadth and diversity of chemistry using professionals. See link

<https://www.rsc.org/new-perspectives/talent/chemistrys-contribution-workforce-trends-and-economic-impact/>

Continuing to campaign to save the elements, talking to MP's during Science Evidence week this week. Scrutinising the impact of COVID on Research funding policy and Brexit and the R & D roadmap implications.

- NI** The Nuclear Institute contributed to the Royal Academy (on behalf of all three engineering institutions) – spending review input.
- IAT** IAT have set up “IAT Education” – forming a separate company that will deal with OFQAL. IAT are moderating apprenticeships remotely. Biosecurity issues mean that it is not possible to have moderators onsite.
- A survey is going out to technicians to assess mental health during COVID-19 pandemic
- ORS** The ORS, alongside colleagues in mathematics will be submitting evidence to government regarding the consultation launched on the 9th September 2020 on the National Data Strategy – The aim of the National Data Strategy (NDS) is to drive the collective vision that will support the UK to build a world-leading data economy.
- [National Data Strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/national-data-strategy)
- IST** Following a successful virtual Annual IST Conference last week Nicholas recommends the work of Marsha Ramroop from the Institute of Equality and Diversity Professionals (IEDP)
- [Diversity Voices Interview: Marsha Ramroop - IEDP](#)
- IES** IES is beginning work on a report to be launched in new year. Joseph will keep us updated on the topic and content and any collaboration opportunities.
- IOM3** A new website has been developed and a CRM alongside new branding has taken time.
- Role of geosciences in decarbonisation. Two policy priorities. Geological Science of climate due out in a couple of months. Geological background to climate science. Declining student involvement. Strategy towards improving student enrolment across the geological sciences. Working with Radioactive Waste Management to help promote the consultancy process community engagement about siting a facility in rocks in Cumbria.
- BSSS** Recently joined “UK Soils” –an organisation for those interested parties in soil science. Sustainable soil alliance, all coming together to promote soil science.
- A new BSSS website is launching on, 5th December being world soils day. BSSS has set up a new company to run the World Congress in Science in 2022 in Glasgow.
- Waiting to see if they have observer status for COP26.
- 4) Blue Climate Change** – Bev McKenzie sends her apologies as she is no longer able to lead on this agenda. Is there another willing advocate for this agenda to take this sub-group forward?
- 5) AOB**
- This meeting agreed that they would like to have a Science Council submission response to the following consultation. [New Inquiry: Equity in the STEM workforce | British Science Association](#)

Jane to put a call out for volunteer to collaborate on a response on behalf of the community.

Policy Forum Dates 2021

16th March 2021 13.30-14.30

16th June 2021 10.30-11.30

16th September 2021 15.00-16.00

Jane Banks, External Relationships Manager
24 November 2020