

**Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament**

**Cross-Party Group on STEM**

Meeting at 18:30, Tues 4 March, via Teams

**Minutes**

Attendees: Mark Isherwood MS, Paul Bulmer, Emily Wood, Keith Jones, Leigh Jeffes, Cerian Angharad, Tom Addison, Rob Beynon, Helen Taylor, Henry Lovett, Peter Arnold, Hywel Edwards, Benjamin Lloyd, Robert Hoyle, Andrew Bellamy, Jon Woodburn, George Baldwin, Faron Moller, Geertje Van Keulen, Lewis Dean

**1) Welcome**

Members were welcomed to the meeting by Emily Wood who was providing Secretariat for the meeting in Niall Sommerville's absence. It was noted that Senedd business was running late and scheduled until 7pm so the meeting would need to start without MSs present.

**2) Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Helen Francies, Rhobert Lewis, Wendy Sadler Dayna Mason

**3) Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising**

Minutes have been sent to all members for approval. There were no matters arising

**4) CityZen Project – Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).**

This item was postponed due to speaker availability.

**5) Future Workforce and Educational Pathways report– Royal Society of Chemistry**

Henry Lovett, Policy Adviser, Royal Society of Chemistry, talked through the recently launched the Future Workforce and Educational Pathways report. Two years in development, this major piece of work used quantitative and qualitative data to identify what industry needs and how we can ensure the workforce of tomorrow as well as today has the skills needed to fulfil their ambitions in the chemical sciences. Following the presentation there was question and answer session covering areas including impact of rising energy costs on FWEP projections, degree structures, work placements, green chemistry and green skills.

**6) Update from Welsh Government Office for Science**

Dr Robert Hoyle provided an update on the work of the Welsh Government Office for Science. He covered areas including concerns around funding and jobs cuts in the HE sector and the expectation of rationalization across the sector; the work of the CSA, in particular being drawn into more UK Government work supporting Professor Dame Angela McLean; now also chairing the selection committee for Science, Innovation, and Technology Honors; CSA involved with the Royal Society and chairs the selection committee for new RS members.

## 7) Updates from professional bodies and learned societies

Colleagues were invited to provide short oral updates on their work.

- Keith Jones ICE talked about the recently launched new initiative with [Girlguiding across Wales & UK to inspire girls to take up engineering careers](#).
- Lewis Dean, Wales Innovation Network, noted upcoming including a workshop on health and climate with public health Wales; an event on spinning out research on 13 March; and on 25 March a showcase event in the Senedd on the work of WIN, will be launching impact report and will circulate this with the group.
- Geertje Van Keulen, Microbiology Society, mentioned a UK Govt consultation on Anti-Microbial Resistance and asked if the Welsh Government is working on AMR report. Robert Hoyle replied saying he knew of ongoing work within Welsh Govt. Geertje also mentioned that the Science Tent in Bridgend's Broadlands Fun Day is seeking science 'acts' as well as hands-on stall holders. The date is Sat Aug 30. Please contact [g.van.keulen@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:g.van.keulen@swansea.ac.uk)
- Andrew Bellamy, BCS, mentioned that since the last meeting, they have continued to promote their lesson plan they promoted during the pandemic, have also been supporting Team Tech, most of their committee are involved in HE including Andrew, mentioned computer science and data science will be losing several colleagues to redundancies at Cardiff.
- Tom Addison, Physiological Society, flagged an [upcoming policy event on 15/16 July 2025](#) focused on heat resilience, air pollution and nutrition.
- Jon Woodburn welcomed himself from the NDA, this was their first CPG on STEMM meeting.
- Rob Beynon, LSW, noted an organisational update has been circulated but asked for people to get in touch if they have any questions.

## 8) Topics for future meetings

The next meeting of the group is on Tues 1 July, part of the meeting will look at Further Education and Engineering, and we hope to also hear from Bute Energy on their work in Wales. Other meeting suggestions are on skills pipeline from the Geological Society as well as ongoing concerns regarding the new Science GCSE – potentially invite the Minister in to speak again; Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on investment in skills; Universities and HE funding challenges. Please get in touch with further suggestions for dates later in the year.

The Science and the Senedd event will take place on 13 May in the Senedd and Pierhead buildings. Booking is now open via the RSC website and Niall will share details with all members of the group following the meeting.

**9) AOB**

- Leigh Jeffes mentioned Science and the Senedd and the availability of exhibition space.
- Mark Isherwood mentioned correspondence from Dr Christopher Wood in intellectual property in Wales. Mark also suggested input from other companies in the energy sector, including RWE, and inviting them to speak at a future meeting.