



SSAC Update Report – November 2019

The SSAC provides independent advice, through its Chair, to the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for Scotland, to inform policy development and delivery across all areas of the Scottish Government's work. It typically develops advice on a medium to long term basis, advising on developments in science and technology and their implications for policy and identifying potential future opportunities and threats.

Chaired by Professor Paul Boyle, the SSAC currently has 12 other members, including the Scottish Government's Chief Scientific Advisers, all of whom are ex-officio members: Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for Scotland Professor Sheila Rowan, Professor David Crossman, the Chief Scientist (Health) and Professor Andrew Millar, CSA Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture.

The SSAC issues a short report following each quarterly meeting to provide an update on its latest work streams and areas of interest. The SSAC held its last meeting at the Scottish Oceans Institute, Gatty Marine Laboratory, University of St Andrews on Friday 30 August 2019.

1. SSAC CURRENT WORKSTREAMS

- ✚ Fire Service (Prevention Technology) – The literature review has been circulated for comments by the SSAC members and a meeting is scheduled for Alan Settery, Scottish Government policy teams and external fire service colleagues to discuss further.
- ✚ Energy Storage Systems/Thermal Energy – Further action in this area is dependent on the SG view/response to the RSE Energy Enquiry in terms of identifying possible gaps.
- ✚ Sustainable Chemicals Note – The draft note is with various stakeholders for review and comment and is nearly ready to be finalised as an SSAC document.
- ✚ SFC Pooling Initiative Review - The SSAC Chair and CSAs had been invited to engage with the Review. A copy of the draft report will be circulated as soon as possible.
- ✚ RSE energy enquiry – This has now been published and there may be an opportunity for SSAC to provide advice.

SSAC FUTURE WORKSTREAMS

✚ It was agreed to take forward the following projects:

- RAS – Robotics and Autonomous Systems

- The Impact of Scottish Manufacturing Industry on the Environment and Climate Change
 - Geo-Environmental Data
- ✚ Further enquiries are underway with the relatively new Photonics and Quantum Policy team to advise the SSAC whether there was scope to conduct the proposed project - Landscaping of technology Trends and the Key Interventions Required to Grow the Photonics and Quantum Industry in Scotland.

OTHER NEWS

- ✚ Interviews for the recruitment campaign for a new Chair and members of the SSAC have now been completed and it is expected that appointees will be notified by 18 October with a view to their appointments beginning in December 2019.

For further information, please contact the SSAC Secretariat team at: Scottishscience@gov.scot