



SSAC Quarterly Update – September 2020

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 Maggie Gill from 1 February 2020, the SSAC has 11 other members, in addition to the Scottish Government's Chief Scientific Advisers, all of whom are ex-officio members: Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for Scotland Professor Sheila Rowan, Chief Scientist (Health) Professor David Crossman and CSA Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Professor Andrew Millar.

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 on 3 September 2020 by video conference.

1. SSAC CURRENT WORKSTREAMS

- ✚ Geospatial Knowledge – effective use of geospatial data in Scotland. This project is expected to be completed by the end of 2020.

2. SSAC FUTURE WORKSTREAMS

- ✚ Two SSAC sub-groups have been created to take forward discussions with Scottish Government policy teams dealing with hydrogen technologies and climate change to identify where SSAC advice would be valuable in these areas.

3. COP26 – Opportunities for SSAC

- ✚ Due to the impacts of Covid-19 the COP26 event has been rescheduled to November 2021 in Glasgow. Discussions are continuing with SSAC council members and RSE around joint activities in the lead up to the COP26.

4. SSAC New Members

- ✚ Scottish Ministers agreed in August 2020 to amend the membership of the SSAC by making the Scottish Government's Chief Social Policy Adviser an ex-officio member from now on. Professor Carol Tannahill, Chief Social Policy Adviser, has therefore now joined the SSAC as an ex-officio member.

- ✚ The SSAC recently agreed to co-opt Professor Jan Webb, Professor of Sociology of Organisations at the University of Edinburgh. Professor Webb attended her first SSAC meeting on 3 September and will assist with upcoming SSAC work on climate change.

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