



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero



Science &
Technology
Advisory Council

Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC)

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Member application information pack

Application closing date: 12 January 2025 (19:00)

Please contact the STAC secretariat at stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk if you have any questions or require further information.

If you need a version of this document in a more accessible format, please email alt.formats@energysecurity.gov.uk. Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.



Contents

Message to applicants from Professor Paul Monks	2
About the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.....	3
About the Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC)	4
STAC objectives.....	5
Role description	6
Diversity	7
Person specification.....	8
Criteria	9
Essential criteria.....	9
Desirable criteria	9
Terms of appointment	11
Appointment term	11
Anticipated time commitment	11
Remuneration arrangements.....	11
Location.....	12
Nature of appointment	12
Availability	12
How to apply.....	13
Overview of the application process	13
Interview panel.....	14
Security Clearance	14
Annex A: Conflicts of Interest and due diligence	15
Annex B: The Seven Principles of Public Life	16
Annex C: How to complain	17

Message to applicants from Professor Paul Monks



This is an incredibly exciting time for our department as we lead the Prime Minister's mission to make Britain a clean energy superpower. The department is moving at pace on our ambitious plan to increase Britain's energy independence, protect billpayers, create good jobs and show global climate leadership.

Science and engineering are fundamental to the successful delivery of the Mission. Robust, relevant, and high-quality scientific, technical and economic evidence are at the heart of decision-making for policy and delivery.

Therefore, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is establishing a Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC) to provide the department (including Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Senior Officials) with independent advice on science, engineering, technology, and analysis. The STAC will support me in my role as Chief Scientific Adviser to provide advice and challenge to the department utilising the best available evidence and expertise.

We are looking for outstanding individuals from relevant academic or industrial backgrounds, including both eminent senior leaders and excelling mid-career professionals, to form the inaugural membership of this newly established Expert Committee. This is a unique opportunity to use your experience and perspective to shape the development and delivery of an enduring STAC. You will work alongside other distinguished members to develop advice that will be received directly by myself, the Chief Analyst, Ministers and the department, which will contribute to supporting the delivery of the department's objectives.

If you believe you have the experience and qualities we are seeking to contribute to this important role, we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Professor Paul Monks, FRMetS, FRSC, FInstP
Chief Scientific Adviser and Director General, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

Please contact the STAC secretariat at stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk if you have any questions or require further information.

About the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) is the lead department delivering the Prime Minister's Clean Energy Superpower Mission, which has 2 pillars:

- Clean Power by 2030, and
- accelerating to net zero.

DESNZ is responsible for delivering the security of energy supply, ensuring properly functioning energy markets, encouraging greater energy efficiency, and seizing the opportunities of net zero to lead the world in new green industries.

The Department's priorities are to:

- enhance energy security,
- protect bill payers,
- create economic growth in the UK and generate and protect jobs,
- reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions.

The role of the department's Chief Scientific Adviser is to bring scientific and engineering evidence to the centre of decision-making, and to provide strategic oversight and assurance of the department's science and engineering capability and activities. The department's Chief Scientific Adviser works closely with the department's Chief Analyst to provide equivalent analytical assurances.

For more information about the department please visit the [Department for Energy Security and Net Zero page on GOV.UK](#).

About the Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC)

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) invites applications to its newly established Science and Technology Advisory Council (STAC). The STAC will work across the department's remit, covering all areas of evidence relating to science, engineering, technology, and analysis, to offer strategic direction, to review, and advise. The STAC will have the option to convene STAC sub-groups for specific areas of focus or time-bound tasks, as required.

The STAC, and associated STAC sub-groups, will play a vital role in supporting the Chief Scientific Adviser in their role to provide independent advice and challenge to the department, including Ministers and Senior Officials. The STAC will fulfil this role by providing expert, robust, and high-quality evidence, analysis, and recommendations to inform policymaking, delivery, operational and strategic decisions across the department's remit on all areas of science, engineering, technology, and analysis.

The STAC will be co-chaired by the department's Chief Scientific Adviser and an independent member.

The STAC aims to bring together a wide-ranging and balanced group of cross-disciplinary external experts, with diversity of backgrounds and experience, to support across the department's remit of science, engineering, technology, and analysis (including economics, social and behavioural science, data science, statistics, and modelling). The embedded scientific and analytical expertise within the department will remain of critical importance and work closely with the STAC. This will include regular engagement between the STAC, the Analysis Directorate, the Science & Innovation for Climate & Energy Directorate, and other Directorates, as relevant.

In this inaugural recruitment round, we are seeking applicants 10-14 membership positions on the STAC.

Please note, the applications of individuals who were not appointed in this recruitment campaign will be retained for a period of 4 years to allow such individuals to be called upon with opportunities to participate in STAC sub-groups, as required and if suitable. Please inform the STAC Secretariat (stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk) if you are not content for your application to be handled in this way.

Please contact the STAC secretariat at stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk if you have any questions or require further information.

STAC objectives

The objectives of the DESNZ STAC and associated STAC sub-groups are to:

- Respond to specific requests from the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Scientific Adviser, Chief Analyst, or Senior Officials, and to consider matters of importance proposed to STAC co-chairs by STAC members or Secretariat.
- Offer independent, expert, strategic, and cross-cutting advice, direction, insight, expertise and support relating to the department's strategy, policy, delivery, and decision-making.
- Provide the department with a route to draw upon independent and timely expertise or evidence from a range of specialisms, to support current or emerging challenges.
- Deliver credible and externally defensible scientific, technical, and analytical advice that is targeted to support specific priorities or decisions.
- Ensure that relevant scientific, engineering, technical, and analytical advice is identified, prioritised, and pursued to provide assurance of the department's evidence portfolio used to inform decision-making for policy and delivery.
- Bring external and independent constructive challenges to the department to support the greater probability of successful departmental outcomes, including where there are significant risks or challenges associated with decisions or delivery.

Role description

This is a high-profile opportunity for eminent senior leaders or excelling mid-career professionals to gain unique insight into a core government department and to provide advice to inform key decisions made by the department.

Members will be required to draw on their expertise and experience to advise the department (including Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Scientific Adviser, Chief Analyst, and Senior Officials) across a breadth of scientific, engineering, and technical, and analytical issues. This will include working collaboratively to reach innovative, creative, and practical recommendations.

The STAC will have the option to convene STAC sub-groups for specific areas of focus or time-bound tasks as required and co-opt appropriate experts to participate. Therefore, STAC members are required to be individuals who have the authority and standing that, once commissioned, could mobilise appropriate expertise and resources, and chair sub-groups of experts to deliver independent and credible advice on specific topics.

Members are expected to:

- Prepare for, attend and contribute to full STAC meetings, with additional work conducted outside these meetings, including leading or participating in sub-groups (arranged as necessary) or in response to additional requests for support and advice (filtered by the Secretariat as required).
- Lead or support the development of robust advice to the department, including examining the assumptions on which advice is formulated and engaging with Ministers, Chief Scientific Adviser, Chief Analyst or Senior Officials to communicate such advice. The format of advice requested may include, but is not limited to, written advice, verbal advice, or feedback on papers, consultations or proposals.
- Act collaboratively and cooperatively with other STAC or STAC sub-group members to ensure that the STAC and associated sub-groups fulfil their responsibilities to provide impartial, balanced, and evidence-informed advice to the department. This may include drawing on individuals' networks to consider the wider context in which their expertise is employed and the impact that advice may have on wide-ranging stakeholders.
- Suggest future areas for STAC advice and proactively share ideas and knowledge where it could be considered to add value.
- Raise awareness of the importance of scientific, engineering, technological, and analytical evidence within and beyond the department by acting as an inspirational and approachable role model.
- Interact with government transparently and openly, in an unbiased and independent manner.
 - Act in accordance with the published [Seven Principles of Public Life \(the Nolan Principles\)](#) and the [Code of Practice for Science Advisory Committees](#).

Please contact the STAC secretariat at stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk if you have any questions or require further information.

Diversity

We are committed to increasing the diversity of our Expert Committees and bringing in talent, regardless of its origins. We encourage applications from all regardless of ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability characteristics currently underrepresented on our Expert Committees. Expert Committees are most effective when they reflect the diversity of views of the society they serve.

Arrangements for applicants with a disability: As a Disability Confident leader, we guarantee to interview anyone with a disability whose application meets the essential criteria for the post. More details on the criteria can be found in this pack. If you wish to apply through the Disability Confident scheme, you will need to tick that option on the Diversity Monitoring form you will submit alongside your application.

Adjustments: All applicants are entitled to request reasonable adjustments at any stage of the application process. If you would like to discuss reasonable adjustments prior to submitting your application, please contact stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk.

Person specification

The department is seeking applicants with expertise in line with the department's policy and science remit, which includes but is not limited to:

- Energy transition and decarbonisation of industry and buildings.
- Energy infrastructure, systems and networks.
- Energy security and resilience.
- Earth, atmospheric, and climate sciences.
- Next generation energy technologies.
- Emerging enabling technologies (such as digital and artificial intelligence, and advanced manufacturing).
- Green industries and skills.

The department is also seeking applicants with expertise in analytical disciplines such as economics, social or behavioural science, data science, statistics, and modelling.

Members will be required to work effectively with, and command the confidence of, Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, Chief Scientific Adviser, Chief Analyst, Senior Officials, the department's extensive network of senior stakeholders, and those at the highest level within all sectors.

Members will be expected to draw on their extensive experience and take a broad view of the current research and innovation landscape to provide independent, strategic advice, support, constructive challenge and assurance to the department across its science, engineering, technical and analytical remit.

The department welcomes applications from both eminent senior leaders and excelling mid-career professionals from a wide range of backgrounds. We are seeking to achieve a balance in the STAC membership profile of gender, ethnicity, disability, lived experience and career stage, alongside the technical criteria for membership.

Members will be appointed as individuals to fulfil the role of the Council and have a duty to act in the public interest. Members are not appointed as representatives of their profession, employer, or interest group.

Members must always observe the highest standards of impartiality, integrity and objectivity in relation to the advice they provide.

Criteria

The department is seeking both eminent senior leaders and excelling mid-career professionals with expertise in science, engineering, technology, analysis, or innovation relevant to the department's policy remit detailed above (whether academia, industry, public sector, third sector, or international). Membership will reflect the need to respond to the department's current and future challenges and opportunities.

Applicants must have the personal stature and credibility to represent a body that advises Ministers and Senior Officials.

Essential criteria

To be successful for interview applicants will need to demonstrate the following essential skills:

- **Lead criteria:** Proven credibility in senior leadership at national level or an excelling mid-career position, and an outstanding track record in thought, intellectual, and strategic leadership.
- Strong interpersonal, communication, collaboration, and influencing skills, with the ability to command the respect and confidence of Ministers, Chief Scientific Adviser, Chief Analyst, Senior Officials, established networks across government, relevant stakeholders, and those at the highest level within the scientific community, industry, public services, and wider sectors. This includes a strong ability to convey technical information accurately and clearly to non-technical audiences.
- Be well connected to an established and broad network, have proven experience of representing a diverse set of views, and have sufficient authority and ability to mobilise other professionals across a range of specialisms to lead subject-specific sub-groups as required.
- An ability to operate with proficiency at the interface between disciplines, with significant breadth and depth of expertise that can be drawn upon to consider different perspectives, critically analyse and evaluate options in an impartial way, and develop evidence-informed advice on key issues.

Desirable criteria

We are interested in applications from individuals with one or more of the following:

- An understanding of the interface between science, investment and policy, including experience of working with government and an awareness of the current political landscape.
- Senior leadership within the higher education sector or leadership of research organisations.
- Significant experience of delivering large, long-term Research & Development programmes.
- Proven track record of commercialising science, engineering, technology and innovation, and associated analytical or investment knowledge.
- Knowledge of the defence and national security landscape.

Please note: if we receive a high number of applications, the sift for interview will be completed against the essential criteria only. The applications of individuals who were not appointed in this recruitment campaign will be retained for a period of 4 years to allow such individuals to be called

Please contact the STAC secretariat at stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk if you have any questions or require further information.

upon with opportunities to participate in STAC sub-groups, as required and if suitable. Please inform the STAC Secretariat (stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk) if you are not content for your application to be handled in this way.

Please contact the STAC secretariat at stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk if you have any questions or require further information.

Terms of appointment

Appointment term

Members will be appointed for a term of 3 years, with the possibility of pre-appointment for a further term.

Any re-appointment is subject to satisfactory annual appraisals of performance during the first term in the post. There is no automatic presumption of reappointment; each case should be considered on its own merits, considering several factors including, but not restricted to, the diversity of the current board and its balance of skills and experience. In most cases, the total time served in post will not exceed more than two terms or ten years in any one post.

Anticipated time commitment

Members are expected to commit approximately 15 days per annum to STAC business. This will include attending and preparing for quarterly plenary meetings, time to input into STAC workstreams and outputs, and attending and preparing for additional sub-group or ad-hoc meetings as required.

Co-chairs of STAC sub-groups may also be required to commit to additional days. Where additional time commitments are required beyond initial estimations, this will be agreed with the Secretariat as required.

This figure is provided as a guide only to help members manage their time alongside other positions they hold. Given the nature of the work of the department, its changing priorities, and the availability, expertise, and interests of individual members, it is likely the actual work and time committed by each member will vary. We also ask members to be willing to participate in activities at short notice or during emergencies

Remuneration arrangements

Members will be eligible to receive an annual honorarium in recognition of their commitment to the STAC.

The eligible honorarium payment is £350 per day for members. The annual honorarium payment will be calculated using the expected annual time commitments detailed above. Where additional time commitments beyond initial estimations are required, these will be further compensated on a pro-rata basis.

Reasonable travel and subsistence expenses will also be paid to those who incur costs whilst acting in their capacity as a STAC member. Reimbursement must only be claimed for reasonable travel and subsistence costs which are properly and necessarily incurred on official business, in line with the travel and subsistence policy and rates for the organisation to which you are applying. However these payments are taxable as earnings and will be subject to tax and national insurance, both of which will be deducted at source under PAYE before you are paid.

Please contact the STAC secretariat at stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk if you have any questions or require further information.

Location

Much of this role can be performed virtually, with the requirement to attend occasional plenary meetings in London.

Nature of appointment

The STAC has Expert Committee classification, and appointments to the STAC are unregulated Public Appointments. Appointments will be made by the Chief Scientific Adviser and Director General, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The post holder would be an officeholder and will not become a member of the Civil Service or be subject to the provisions of employment law.

This appointment does not attract any benefits under any Civil Service Pension Scheme. You will not be eligible for redundancy pay as you are not an employee. No other arrangements have been made for compensation upon the end of your term of appointment because an office holder who is appointed for a limited duration would have no expectation of serving beyond that period.

Availability

Successful applicants will be encouraged to take up their appointments as soon as possible, following the successful completion of pre-appointment checks and security clearance at required level in line with the Civil Service guidelines.

How to apply

To apply, you will need to email your application to the STAC Secretariat (stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk) by no later than 19:00 on 12 January 2025.

To submit your application, you are asked to email the following documents as separate attachments:

- A completed cover sheet (attached below) that:
 - Indicates how your expertise, qualifications, or positions held are of direct relevance to the Department's policy, technical, and analytical remits detailed in the advert.
 - Includes a short supporting statement (maximum 500 words) detailing how your personal skills, qualities and experience provide evidence of your suitability for the role, with reference to the criteria in the person specification of this advert.
- A concise CV (maximum two sides A4, minimum 11 font) setting out your career history, with key responsibilities, professional qualifications, and achievements.
- A completed Diversity Information and Conflicts of Interest Form (attached below)

Shortlisted candidates may be required to complete and return a separate form in relation to referees.

Overview of the application process

This competition is based on a written application, followed by interviews (if candidates are successful at sift stage).

Those interested in this appointment are asked to submit completed coversheet (including a supporting statement), a CV and completed Diversity Information and Conflicts of Interest Form before the closing date. After the competition closes, the panel will assess your application to select those demonstrating the best fit with the role by considering the evidence you have provided against the criteria set out in the 'person specification' section.

If you are shortlisted, you will be asked to attend a panel interview to have an in-depth discussion of your previous experience and professional competence. This could be in relation to any of the criteria set out in the vacancy description, including key responsibilities detailed in the role description and criteria listed in the person specification.

Prior to interview, you may have the opportunity for informal conversations with key individuals to improve your understanding of the organisation. Full details of the assessment process will be made available to shortlisted candidates.

Ministers will be informed of appointments following completion of the recruitment competition.

The timeline outlined in this advert indicates the date by which decisions are expected to be made, and all candidates will be advised of the outcome as soon as possible thereafter.

Please note: Due Diligence searches will be undertaken on shortlisted candidates and references may be taken up prior to interview.

Please contact the STAC secretariat at stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk if you have any questions or require further information.

Interview panel

- Professor Paul Monks FRMetS, FRSC, FInstP, Chief Scientific Adviser and Director General, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.
- STAC co-chair (to be confirmed).
- Senior departmental official (to be confirmed).
- Independent member (to be confirmed).

Security Clearance

Candidates successful in securing a member-only positions will be required to undertake Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) checks in line with the Civil Service guidelines.

We may request for members to undertake additional Security Clearance in the future. Where this applies, discussions will be held with the STAC Secretariat.

Full guidance on National Security Vetting clearance levels can be found on [the GOV.UK website here](#).

The roles will be offered on a conditional basis until the successful applicants have passed all checks.

Annex A: Conflicts of Interest and due diligence

We require the highest standards of propriety, involving impartiality, integrity, and objectivity, in relation to stewardship of public funds and the oversight and management of all related activities. This means that any private, voluntary, charitable, or political interest that might be material and relevant to the work of the Expert Committee concerned should be declared. It is important that those appointed as members maintain the confidence of the Department and the public. If there are any issues in your personal or professional history that could, if you were appointed, be misconstrued, cause embarrassment, or cause public confidence in the appointment to be jeopardised, it is important that you bring them to the attention of the panel and provide details of the issue(s) in your application. In considering whether you wish to declare any issues, you should also reflect on any public statements you have made, including through social media. The panel may explore issues with you before they make a recommendation on the appointment.

Annex B: The Seven Principles of Public Life

Members are expected to act in accordance with the [Seven Principles of Public Life](#) (also known as the Nolan Principles):

- **Selflessness**

Members should act solely in terms of the public interest.

- **Integrity**

Members must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

- **Objectivity**

Members must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

- **Accountability**

Members are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

- **Openness**

Members should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

- **Honesty**

Members should be truthful.

- **Leadership**

Members should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour and treat others with respect. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Annex C: How to complain

We aim to process all applications as quickly as possible and to treat all applicants with courtesy. Please contact us if you would like to make a complaint regarding your application by emailing stac.secretariat@energysecurity.gov.uk.