

**Council for Science and Technology**  
**Member**  
Candidate Pack  
Closing Date: 12:00 19 January 2026



**COUNCIL FOR  
SCIENCE &  
TECHNOLOGY**

If you have any questions, require further information, or would like this candidate pack in an alternative format, please contact the Public Appointments team at [partnerships@dsit.gov.uk](mailto:partnerships@dsit.gov.uk) and CST secretariat at [cstsecretariat@go-science.gov.uk](mailto:cstsecretariat@go-science.gov.uk)



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# Message to Candidates from Dame Angela McLean

The UK government has set out a clear ambition to accelerate innovation and productivity across the UK through world-class science and research and the safe development and deployment of new technologies. Putting excellent scientific advice at the heart of decision making is key to the delivery of this government's priorities.

The Council for Science and Technology provides advice directly to the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers on national priorities, from how to achieve sustainable growth to the role of science and technology in addressing geographical inequalities across the UK.

We are looking for a new council member with social and behavioural science expertise who is passionate and willing to share insights with government. This is an opportunity to bring your unique perspective to the Council and work alongside other distinguished members to develop advice that will help government deliver improved outcomes for society.

**Professor Dame Angela McLean, Government Chief Scientific Adviser**



# About the Council for Science & Technology (CST)

CST is the government's highest-level advisory body on science and technology delivering advice directly to the Prime Minister and Cabinet on science, engineering, technology and innovation policy issues across government. It is jointly chaired by an independent co-chair and the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Dame Angela McLean.

CST provides impartial advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet on:

- what the government's high-level priorities for science and technology should be to support the delivery of the government's priorities;
- emerging and long-term scientific and technological developments, including opportunities and risks relating to:
  - science and research capability
  - innovation and economic growth
  - health and quality of life within the UK
  - sustainable development and resilience
- other matters requested by the Prime Minister, Ministers, or considered important by the Council.

Further information about the Council for Science and Technology can be found [here](#).

# The Role

The role of CST members is to draw on their experience as a senior leader within academia, business, finance, or the voluntary sector to bring a variety of perspectives on science and technology issues to inform delivery of the Government's priorities. The Council members work on a wide breath of issues and will need the ability to work across disciplines.

**In this campaign, we are specifically seeking a member with social and behavioural science expertise.**

All members are expected to:

- lead or support the development of advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- attend quarterly meetings, with work outside these meetings conducted through project subgroups;
- engage with Ministers and senior officials to support implementation of advice;
- suggest future areas for CST advice; and
- work across and draw on their networks to access expertise.

# Person Specification

Taking a broad view of the research and innovation landscape, members will be expected to contribute actively to both the Council's policy agenda and to nurture links across the Council's extensive network of senior stakeholders. They will need to work effectively with, and command the confidence of, the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, and those at the highest level within the research community, business and the public services. Members are encouraged to draw on their experience to provide independent critical thought across the breadth of the Council's activity.

Members of CST are appointed as individuals. Members are not appointed as representatives of their profession, employer or interest group, and have a duty to act in the public interest. Members must at all times observe the highest standards of impartiality, integrity and objectivity in relation to the advice they provide.

# Essential Criteria

The Government is seeking applicants with expertise in social and behavioural science. Applicants must have the personal stature and credibility to represent a body which advises the Prime Minister.

To be successful at interview you will need to demonstrate the following essential skills:

- Knowledge: Clear understanding of the Council for Science and Technology's purpose. Credibility at an international level in social and behavioural science.
- Experience: A strong track record of demonstrating how social and behavioural science can be used to inform government policy.
- Relationship building: Ability to build strong stakeholder relationships and command the confidence of the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and those at the highest level within the research community, business and the public services.
- Communication: Strong communication and interpersonal skills with the ability to listen, accept challenge and constructively challenge others in discussions with clarity and respect.
- Judgement: Effective decision-making skills with the ability to critically analyse a wide range of information to make clear and objective evidence-based recommendations to support the delivery of the Council's recommendations.
- Collaboration: An ability to work closely with Council members and other key stakeholders, providing support, constructive challenge and assurance as appropriate.

# Desirable Criteria

One of:

- Senior leadership within the higher education sector.
- Senior leadership within the non-profit sector and/or social impact work.
- Experience and/or deep knowledge in emerging technologies e.g., AI.

# Terms of Appointment

**Appointment Term:** An initial period of 3 years.

**Remuneration:** Membership is not remunerated except for reasonable travel and subsistence costs related to Council business.

**Time Commitment:** Two days per month

**Location:** The Council generally meets four times a year in Central London, in addition to ad hoc meetings with Ministers and senior officials. Other work is done by correspondence or virtual meetings.

**Nature of Appointment:** This is a Ministerial Appointment by the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology. The post holder would be an officeholder and not be an employee of the Department or the Council for Science and Technology.

**Availability:** The successful candidate will be encouraged to take up their appointment as soon as possible, following the successful completion of pre-appointment checks and security clearance at Baseline Personnel Security Standard (BPSS) level. Further details can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/united-kingdom-security-vetting-clearance-levels/national-security-vetting-clearance-levels>.

# How to Apply

**Applications** must be submitted **by 12:00 on 19/01/2026**. Applications received after this date and time will **not** be considered.

In order to apply you will need to create an account or sign in via the [Public Appointments website](#). Once you are logged into your account, click on 'apply for this role' and follow the on-screen instructions. To apply, all candidates are required to provide;

- A two-page curriculum vitae (CV)
- A two-page supporting statement
- Equality information
- Information relating to any outside interests or reputational issues

A good application will set out specific information about how you meet the person specification for this appointment. Think about your knowledge, skills, experience and personal attributes, and take full advantage of the space available. Provide practical evidence that best demonstrates how you meet the essential and any desirable criteria.

We will ask you to check and confirm your personal details to ensure your application is accurate.

You will also have the opportunity to make a reasonable adjustment request or apply under the disability confident scheme before you submit your application.

# Assessment Panel, Process and Timeline

Candidates will be sifted and interviewed by an Advisory Appointment Panel (AAP). Scoring at sift and interview is based on the criteria set out in the Person Specification. The AAP will determine which candidates are appointable.

The Secretary of State will appoint on merit from the list of appointable candidates.

The members of the AAP are:

- **Panel Chair - Dame Angela McLean**, Government Chief Scientific Adviser and co-chair of CST
- **CST Representative - Lord Browne of Madingley**, independent co-chair of CST
- **Independent Panel Member - TBC**  
(full details of the assessment panel will be provided if shortlisted).

Interviews will be held in person in London.

Date	Actions
12:00 19 January	Application Deadline
Week commencing 26 January	Shortlisting
Week commencing 16 February	Interviews
Week commencing 16 March	Successful candidate notified
Week commencing 13 April	Appointment announced

*The above timeline is indicative and subject to change.*

# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We are committed to increasing the diversity of our boards and bringing in talent, regardless of its origins. We encourage applications from all candidates, regardless of ethnicity, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability or gender identity. We particularly welcome applications from people with ethnicity, gender and disability characteristics currently underrepresented on our Boards.

## Arrangements for candidates 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 the option on the Diversity Monitoring form that you will submit alongside your application.

## Adjustments:

All candidates are entitled to request reasonable adjustments at any stage of the application process. If you would like to discuss adjustments prior to submitting your application, please contact [partnerships@dsit.gov.uk](mailto:partnerships@dsit.gov.uk).

# Annex A: Conflict of Interest and Due Diligence

Public Appointments 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 body concerned should be declared.

It is important that those appointed as members of public bodies maintain the confidence of Parliament 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 Assessment 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.

As part of our due diligence checks we will consider anything in the public domain related to your conduct or professional capacity. This will include us undertaking searches of previous public statements and social media, blogs or any other publicly available information. This information may be made available to the Panel, and they may wish to explore issues with you, should you be invited to interview.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss further, please contact [partnerships@dsit.gov.uk](mailto:partnerships@dsit.gov.uk)

# Annex B: The Seven Principles of Public Life

In 1995 the Committee on Standards in Public Life defined seven principles for public life. All candidates for are expected to demonstrate a commitment to, and an understanding of, the value and importance of the principles of public service which are:

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Further information on the principles of public life can be found [here](#).

# Annex C: Complaints Procedure

If you feel you have reason to complain you should direct your concerns in the first instance to the Public Appointments team at [partnerships@dsit.gov.uk](mailto:partnerships@dsit.gov.uk) who will make every effort to deal with these and respond to you within 48 hours.