

SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

RESPONSIBILITIES

Note by the Chairman

The responsibilities and powers of the Science Research Council are described in the Science and Technology Act (Clause 1) and in the Royal Charter (Paragraph 2(1)) which are attached to this note.

Further details are given in the following Government statement made in the House of Lords on February 4:-

"The Science Research Council will take over the present responsibilities of the D.S.I.R. for giving research grants to universities and post-graduate training awards. Grants for the support of applied as well as pure science in universities are to be the responsibility of the Science Research Council, although the Ministry of Technology will undoubtedly want, on occasion, to meet its own particular needs with university work, which it would normally do by placing contracts.

The Council will also be responsible for certain facilities which provide services for university scientists. It will take over the National Institute for Research in Nuclear Science, the Royal Greenwich Observatory and the Royal Observatory at Edinburgh, the D.S.I.R. Radio Research Station and the responsibility for supervising the scientific Space Research programme. It will also, in consultation with the Department of Education and Science and the Foreign Office, have primary responsibility for the conduct of United Kingdom participation in international research bodies, such as the European Organisation for Nuclear Research and the European Space Research Organisation".

SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

Text of the Royal Charter

ELIZABETH THE SECOND, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith:

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting!

W H E R E A S Our Secretary of State has appointed certain persons to be the Chairman and the other members of a Council for promoting and supporting research in science and technology and related matters to be known as the Science Research Council

A N D W H E R E A S it has been represented unto Us that for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the said Council and with a view to facilitating the holding of and dealing with property and to encouraging the making of gifts and bequests in aid of the said objects it is expedient that the said Council should be incorporated.

N O W, T H E R E F O R E, K N O W Y E that We, by virtue of Our Prerogative Royal and of all other powers enabling Us in that behalf, of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have granted and declared and do by these Presents for Us, our Heirs and Successors, grant and declare as follows:-

1. T H E person now the Chairman and the other members of the Science Research Council aforesaid (whose names are set out in the Schedule hereto), and all such other persons as may hereafter become the Chairman and other members of the body corporate hereby constituted, shall for ever hereafter (so long as they continue to be members of the Council) be one Body Corporate under the name of "The Science Research Council" (hereinafter referred to as "the Council"), and by the same name shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal, with power to break, alter and make anew the said seal from time to time at their will and pleasure, and by the same name shall and may sue and be sued in all courts and in all manner of actions and suits, and shall have power to enter into contracts, to acquire hold and dispose of property of any kind, to accept trusts and generally to do all matters and things incidental or appertaining to a Body Corporate.

2. (1) THE objects for which the Council are established and incorporated are as follows:
 - (a) To carry out research and development in science and technology.
 - (b) To encourage and support by any means research and development in science and technology by any other person or body.
 - (c) Without prejudice to the foregoing paragraph, to provide and operate equipment or other facilities for common use in research and development in science and technology by universities, technical colleges or other institutions or persons engaged in research.
 - (d) To make grants for post graduate instruction in science and technology.
 - (e) To disseminate knowledge concerning science and technology.
- (2) The Council may pursue their objects in Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or elsewhere.
3. ALL moneys and property howsoever received by the Council, including any moneys voted by Parliament, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Council and no portion thereof (except as otherwise provided in this Our Charter) shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly to the members thereof.
4. (1) THE Council shall consist of a Chairman and not more than fifteen nor less than ten other members.
- (2) The Chairman and other members shall be appointed, and the terms of their appointment shall be determined, by Our Secretary of State, who shall appoint not less than two-thirds of the total number of members for the time being on account of their qualifications in science or technology.
- (3) Before appointing any member on account of his qualifications in science or technology Our Secretary of State shall consult the President for the time being of the Royal Society.
- (4) Every member shall hold and vacate his office in accordance with the terms of his appointment and shall, on ceasing to be a member, be eligible for re-appointment but -
 - (a) a member shall not be appointed for a term of more than four years;

(b) a member, other than the chairman, who at any time serves for eight consecutive years shall not be eligible for re-appointment before the expiration of one year from the end of that period; and

(c) a member may at any time by notice in writing to Our Secretary of State resign his office.

(5) Except as provided in paragraph (7) of this Article, the Council shall, in the case of any such member as Our Secretary of State, with the approval of the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury, may determine -

(a) pay to him such remuneration and allowances as may be so determined in his case; and

(b) pay to or in respect of him, such pension, allowance or gratuity on his retirement or death, or make such payments towards provision for such a pension, allowance or gratuity, as may be so determined in his case.

(6) If a person ceases to be a member of the Council otherwise than on the expiration of his term of office, and it appears to Our Secretary of State that there are special circumstances which make it right that that person should receive compensation, the Council shall make to that person a payment of such amount as Our Secretary of State, may, with the approval of the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury, determine.

(7) The Council shall not in any circumstances or at any time make to or in respect of any person in his capacity as a member of the Council any payment of any kind whatsoever for or in respect of any period when he is also a member of Our Commons House of Parliament, other than a payment by way of reimbursement to him of actual out of pocket expenses previously and necessarily incurred by him in the performance of his duties as such member of the Council.

5. (1) THE Council may act notwithstanding a vacancy among the members thereof and the validity of any proceedings of the Council shall not be affected by any defect in the appointment of a member thereof.
- (2) The quorum of the Council shall be six members personally present or such greater number as the Council may from time to time determine.

6. SUBJECT to the provisions of this Our Charter, the Council may regulate their own procedure.

7. (1) THE Council may appoint committees to exercise, or advise them on the exercise of, any of their functions and may -

(a) appoint to any such committee persons who are not members of the Council; and

(b) at any time revoke the appointment of any member of any such committee.

(2) Where the Council appoint to any such committee any person who is not a member of the Council, they shall, if Our Secretary of State, with the approval of the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury, so determines, pay to that person such remuneration and allowances as may be so determined in his case.

8. (1) THE Council shall, with the approval of Our Secretary of State, appoint a Secretary and may appoint such other officers and take into their employment such other persons as the Council may determine subject, as to the number of such officers and other persons, to the approval of Our Secretary of State and the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury.

(2) The Council may -

(a) pay to their Secretary and to their other officers and to other persons employed by them such remuneration as the Council may, with the approval of Our Secretary of State and the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury, from time to time determine; and

(b) as regards any officers or other persons employed in whose case it may be determined by the Council, with the approval of our Secretary of State and the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury, so to do, pay to or in respect of them such pensions (including gratuities), or provide and maintain for them such pension schemes (whether contributory or not), as may be so determined.

(3) Where the holder of an office or employment with the Council, being a participant in any pension scheme applicable to the office or employment, becomes a member of the Council, he may be treated for the purpose of the pension scheme as if his service as a member of the Council were service in an office, or employment with the Council, and his rights under the scheme shall not be affected by any provision of

this Our Charter which requires that pensions, allowances or gratuities or payments towards the provision of them payable in the case of members of the Council shall be determined by Our Secretary of State with the approval of the Lords Commissioners of Our Treasury.

9. THE application of the Seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairman or of some other member of the Council authorised generally or specially by the Council to act for that purpose, and of one of such officers of the Council as may be so authorised by the Council so to act.

10. IT shall be lawful for Us, Our Heirs and Successors by Supplemental Charter to add to or amend the provisions of this Our Charter or any of them.

11. WITHOUT prejudice to the provisions of Article 10 of this Our Charter, the Council may by resolution in that behalf passed at a meeting of the Council by a majority of not less than three-quarters of the members present and voting (being an absolute majority of the whole number of the members of the Council) and confirmed at a further meeting of the Council held not less than one month nor more than four months afterwards by a like majority, add to or amend this Our Charter, and such addition or amendment, when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council, shall become effectual, so that this Our Charter shall thenceforward continue and operate as though it had been originally granted and made accordingly: and this provision shall apply to this Our Charter, as added to or amended in manner aforesaid.

12. IN this Our Charter "science" includes the social sciences and references to Our Secretary of State are to Our Secretary of State for Education and Science.

I N W I T N E S S whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

W I T N E S S Ourselves at the day of
in the of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT under The Queen's Sign Manual.

THE SCHEDULE

The present Chairman and other Members of the Science Research Council.