



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

# Promoting Science Diplomacy Advice in the UK

Robin Grimes  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2017

# A network of Chief Scientific Advisers



Prof Sir Mark  
Walport  
GCSA



Prof Dame  
Sally Davies  
CMO



Prof Vernon  
Gibson  
MOD



Prof Ian  
Boyd  
Defra



Prof  
Chris Whitty  
DH



Prof Tim Dafforn  
BIS



Prof Robin  
Grimes  
FCO



Prof Phil  
Blythe  
DfT



Prof  
Charlotte Watts  
DFID



Prof Bernard  
Silverman  
Home Office



Dr Tim Leung  
DfE



Osama  
Rahman  
MoJ



Prof Anthony  
Finkelstein  
National Security



Prof John  
Loughhead  
DECC



Prof Stephen  
Belcher Met  
Office



Prof Andrew  
Curran HSE



Prof Peter  
Freer Smith  
Forestry C.



Stephen Aldridge  
(interim)  
CLG



Prof Sheila  
Rowan  
Scotland



Prof Julie  
Williams  
Wales

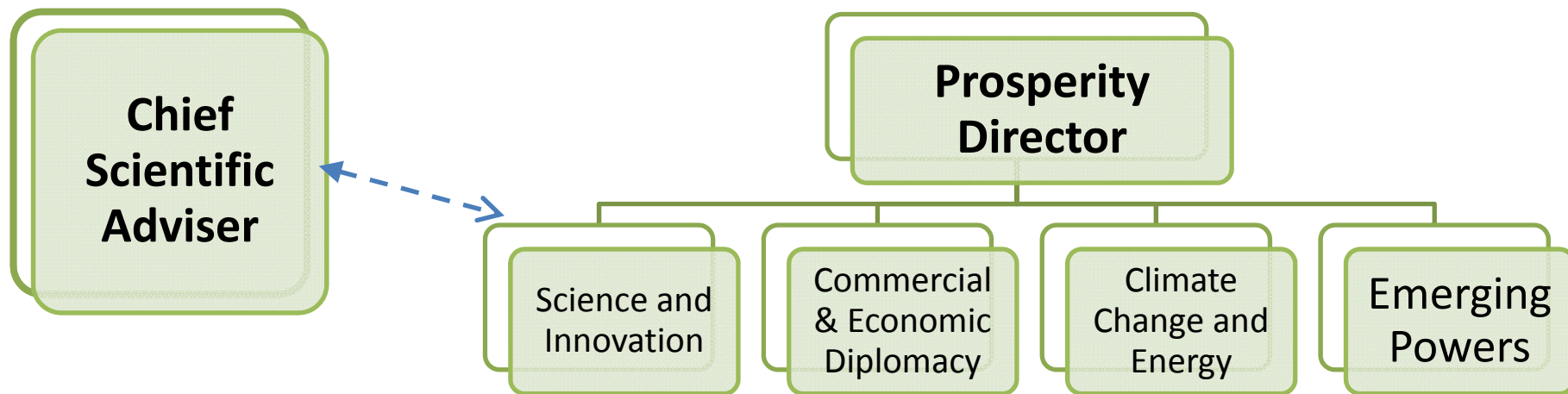


Prof Bernadette  
Hannigan (interim)  
Northern Ireland

## Within the FCO, the Chief Scientific Adviser & Prosperity Directorate are the S&I focal points



- The CSA looks across the full range of FCO policy.
- Ensures that foreign policy is informed by the best available science & has access to appropriate science networks.
- Provides advice to the Foreign Secretary and Ministers.



# Foreign policy needs to be informed by the best available science



## Science evidence

Help FCO policy leads to use scientific evidence to strengthen foreign policy development & delivery in line with Diplomatic Excellence initiative

## Science networks

Strengthen FCO engagement with science networks  
Represent FCO interests in Whitehall & wider science networks

## FCO-BEIS S&I Network leadership

With BEIS and Prosperity Directorate, provide thought leadership and senior representation for the co-owned HMG S&I Network

# Scientific Advisers in other Foreign Ministries

Many countries have science advisors

Only a few are based in Foreign Ministries

- USA – Vaughan Turekian
- Japan – Teruo Kishi
- New Zealand – Peter Gluckman
- Senegal - Aminata Sall Diallo
- Poland - Marek Konarzewski
- .... Watch this space

# UK Science and Innovation Network



90 SIN Officers in 31 countries and territories



**Sara Cebrian**, Science & Innovation Officer – Spain

[Sara.Cebrian@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Sara.Cebrian@fco.gov.uk)



# LDSC – London Diplomatic Science Club

Imperial College  
Event – explaining to  
the LDSC how new  
materials are  
transforming society  
and describing  
opportunities for  
collaboration with  
UK universities.



# What is Science Diplomacy?



## Science in diplomacy

Science informs policy objectives by providing robust evidence or access to people & networks – *science supports diplomatic competencies*

## Science for diplomacy

Science as a beach-head, leading to improved political, social and economic links, builds confidence – *science builds diplomatic relations*

## Diplomacy for science

Helping scientists to achieve their goals – *diplomacy supports science*

## The Science of diplomacy

Based on the Science Diplomacy Report January 2010 “New frontiers in science diplomacy” RS Policy document 01/10  
Understanding what and how science diplomacy works – *the discipline*

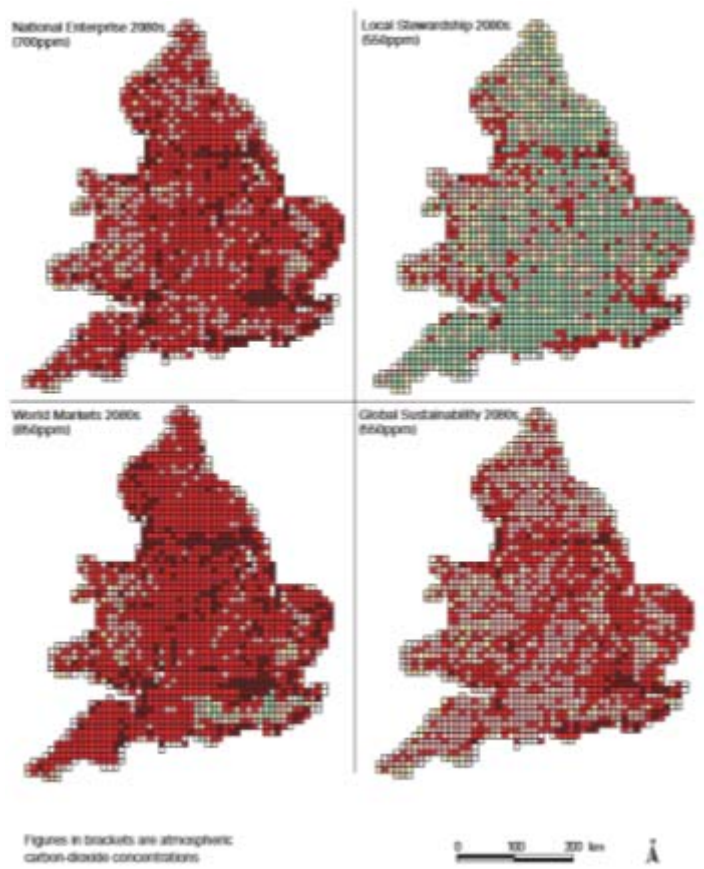


# Common National Concerns (Interlinked)



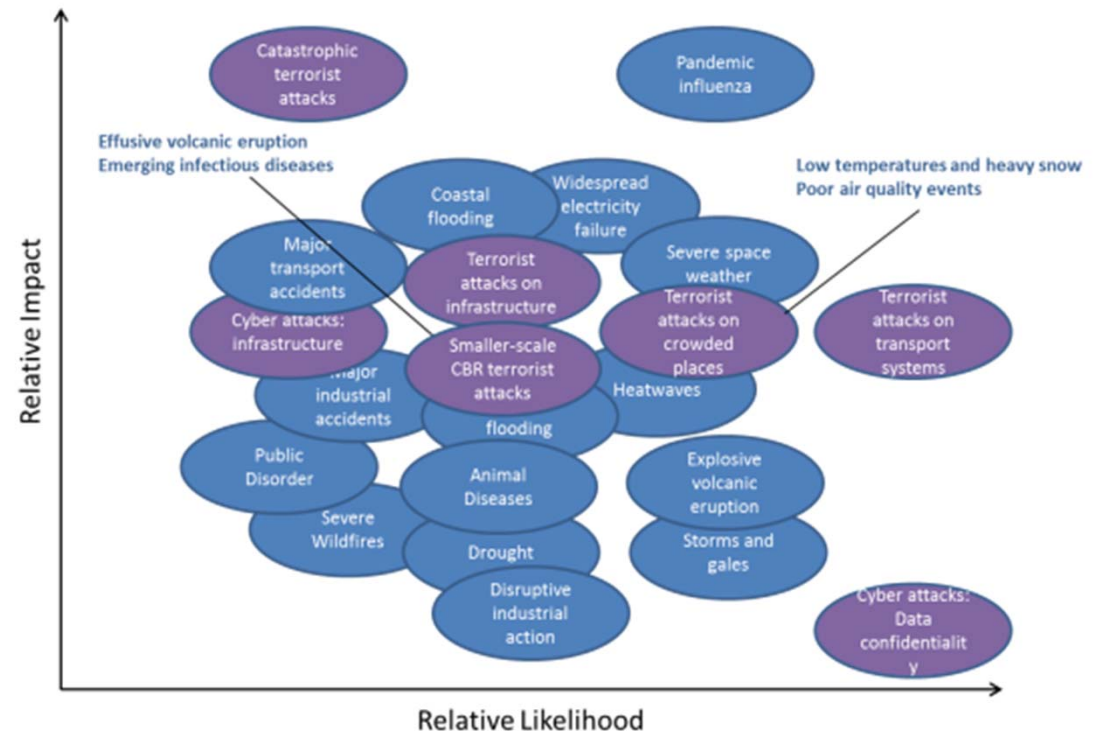


Government  
Office for Science



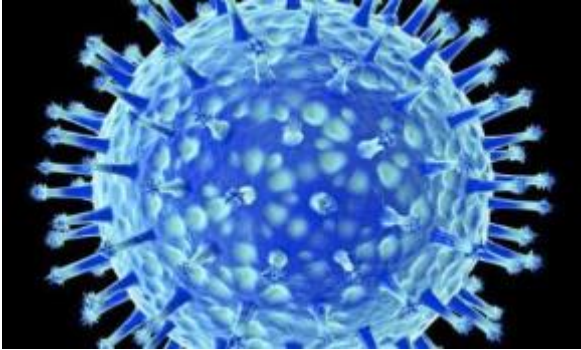
**Foresight –  
Future of Flooding**

# Science Advice: Mitigating Risk



**The National  
Risk Register**

# Science in Emergencies: Recent challenges that led to international collaboration action



2009 – Pandemic Flu  
2010 – Volcanic Ash  
2011 – Fukushima  
2014 – UK Floods  
2014 – Ebola  
2015 - Zika

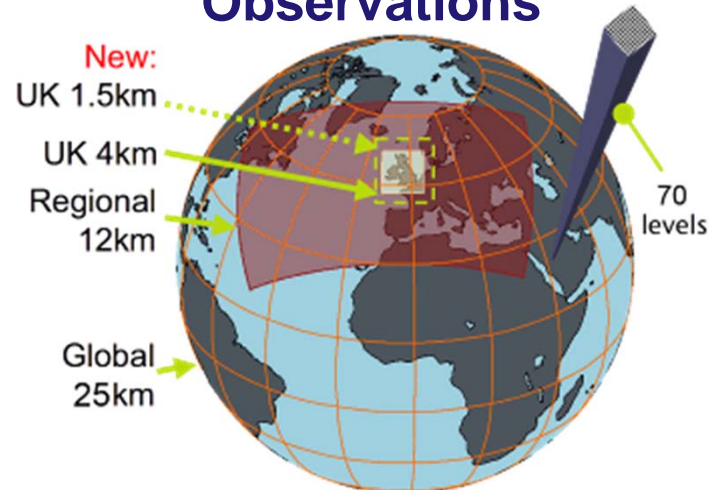




# Our ability to respond to disaster risk relies on a scientific value chain



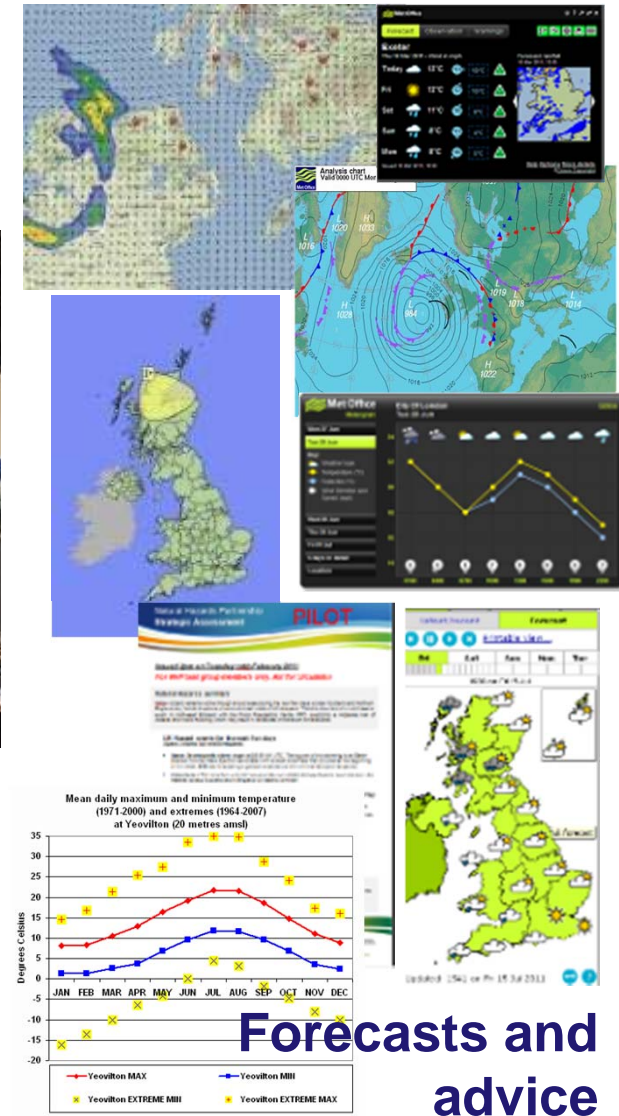
## Observations



## Forecast model output



## Interpretation, Risk Analysis & Communication



# Science Diplomacy with Argentina:





# The policy challenge: Viewing difficult issues through lenses



**74%**

of respondents are very or fairly concerned about climate change.

**79%**

believe the UK should reduce its use of fossil fuels.

**83%**

of respondents are fairly or very concerned that in the next 10-20 years electricity and gas will become unaffordable for them.

**82%**

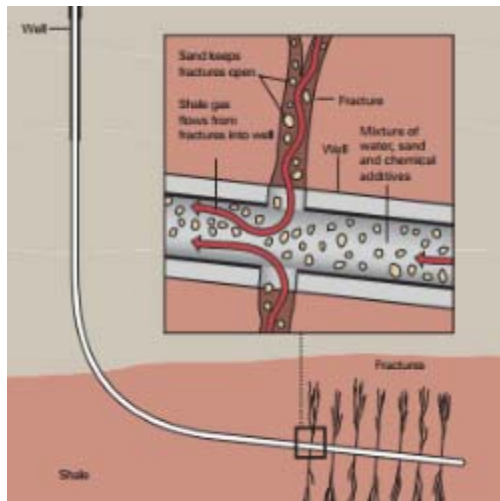
of the British public have strong concerns about the UK becoming too dependent on energy from other countries. Respondents were also concerned about having no alternatives in place when fossil fuels run out (84%), and the possibility of a national petrol shortage (73%) and frequent power cuts (63%).

# Communication: Fracking

## Scientific concerns

Fossil fuel, engineering and geological:

- Loss of integrity in aquifer zone
- Seismic events
- Methane release



## Understanding public attitudes

Anti-fracking movements are not solely concerned with emissions or the risks of pollution or seismicity:

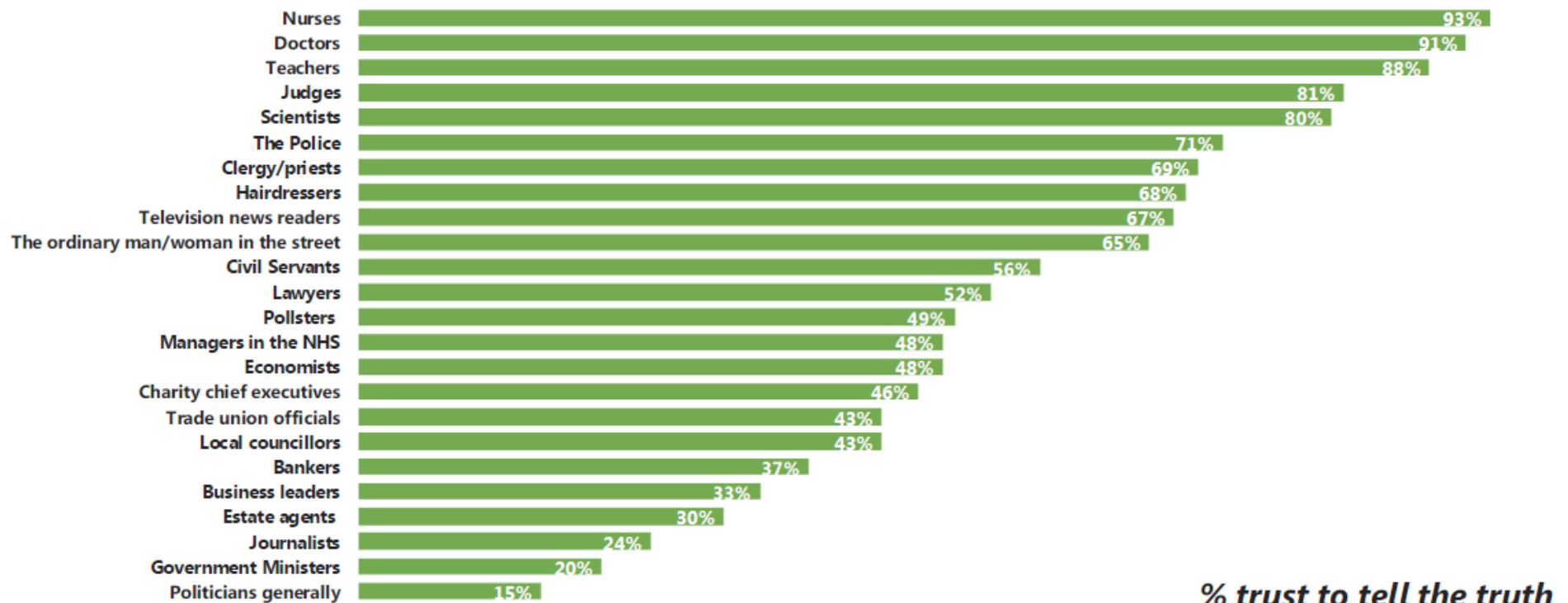
Opposition to continued exploitation of fossil fuels in general

- Opposition to the oil and gas industry
- 'Not in my back yard'



# Ipsos-Mori veracity index 2016

*"Now I will read you a list of different types of people. For each would you tell me if you generally trust them to tell the truth, or not?"*



**% trust to tell the truth**

[https://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/publications/1896/Enough-of-Experts-Ipsos-MORI-Veracity-Index-2016.aspx#gallery\[m\]/0/](https://www.ipsos-mori.com/researchpublications/publications/1896/Enough-of-Experts-Ipsos-MORI-Veracity-Index-2016.aspx#gallery[m]/0/)



Government  
Office for Science

# Giving Science Advice: The ground rules

1. Clear roles and responsibilities
2. Independence
3. Transparency and openness



Government  
Office for Science

Guidance

## Principles of scientific advice to government

Published 24 March 2010

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scientific-advice-to-government-principles>

# What is necessary for a successful CSA?



- Collaboration within Government
  - Owned and promoted by home department
  - Access across government departments
- Communication and support within the home ministry
  - Access to Ministers & Officials; Adequately resourced
- Relationship to the Science Community
  - Established & connected - credibility
- Access to Science and Technology Teams
  - Networks within government and beyond to provide/generate robust evidence.



# championing science diplomacy



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



@RobinWGrimes  
@UKSINet