

Campaign to recruit the next GCSA launching shortly



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A competition to recruit his successor will be launched shortly to leave sufficient time to get someone in place to allow a smooth transition.

Appointing the GCSA from outside the Civil Service for the usual 5-year term is an important way to ensure transparent and independent advice.

Prime Minister, Boris Johnson said:

It is impossible to fully convey the impact that Sir Patrick has had as Chief Scientific Adviser.

He has played an instrumental role in expanding and accelerating the science super prowess of this country. Overseeing the development and innovative use of new technologies, responding to the global threat of climate change, boosting the life sciences and health of our nation, and ensuring our policies and decisions are informed by the latest and best scientific thinking.

Sir Patrick may not have bargained for becoming a household name when he signed up for the job, but I am immensely grateful for his advice and expertise throughout the pandemic and beyond. It's our scientists and clinicians, led by Sir Patrick, Sir Chris Whitty, and their team, that oversaw the largest vaccine rollout in British history together with my government.

He will be missed by all when he leaves next year, and I wish him the very best in all future endeavours.

Sir Patrick Vallance said:

Science and engineering remain vital for the future prosperity of the UK, and high-quality evidence and science advice should be at the heart of all government decision making.

Appointing the GCSA for fixed periods is an important way to ensure independence and my 5-year term has been both challenging and immensely rewarding. I remain fully committed to my role until my successor takes up the role.

The role of the GCSA is to advise the Prime Minister and government on all matters related to science and technology and to ensure that policies and decisions are informed by the best scientific evidence and strategic long-term thinking.

The GCSA is head of the Government Science and Engineering (GSE) profession and Co-chair of the independent Council for Science and Technology which provides high level advice to the Prime Minister.

The Government Office for Science works closely with the new Office for Science and Technology Strategy in the Cabinet Office which the current GCSA oversees in his role as National Technology Adviser.

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