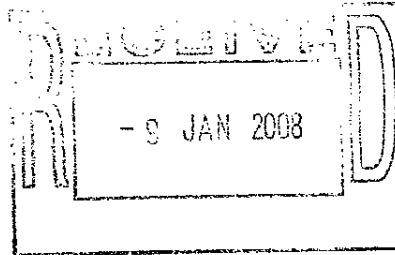


Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AC/AM
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister for Wales



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-075
Ein cyf/Our ref FM/00012/08



Val Lloyd AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

8 January 2008

Dear Val

Petition- Royal Society of Chemistry

I am writing in response to your letter of 12th December. The petition has been overtaken by events, in that I have appointed a Chief Scientific Advisor – Professor Christopher Pollock CBE, the recently-retired Director of IGER, near Aberystwyth. His first task is to scope the nature and extent of a future CSA for Wales's brief, but he has other duties which echo the concerns of the petitioners.

I announced the appointment on 18 September and Chris Pollock took up his duties from 5 November 2007. I enclose a copy of the press release.

*Yours
Rhodri*

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Ffacs * Fax 029 2089 8198



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

First Minister announces new science appointment for Wales

First Minister Rhodri Morgan will tonight [18 September] announce the creation of a new post to advise the government on scientific matters.

In a speech to the Institute of Welsh Affairs in Swansea this evening, entitled "Science and the Public: Engagement or Divorce", the First Minister will announce that he has appointed Professor Chris Pollock, the former Director of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research in Aberystwyth (IGER), to assess how exactly the role and responsibilities of a permanent office for a Chief Scientific Adviser to the Welsh Assembly Government should work.

As well as defining the best way for a Chief Scientific Adviser for Wales to operate, Professor Pollock's other responsibilities will include advising on the development and implementation of the Welsh Assembly Government's science policy and the science-related aspects of "One Wales". He will also represent the interests of the science profession within the Welsh Assembly Government, identify the most effective means of co-ordinating the use of science and the provision of science advice both from within the Welsh Assembly Government and from external sources.

Rhodri Morgan said:

This is a very important appointment because science and technology help to provide right solutions for Wales on global and local issues and we have found the right person in Professor Chris Pollock to fill it on a pathfinder basis. He commands large respect in the world of science and in the corridors of power. Science and technology will be ever more vital for any modern European nation to support a growing knowledge economy, world class universities, a world class health service as well as a commitment to sustainability. In his new role, Professor Pollock will be able to advise the Welsh Assembly Government on scientific issues and how to develop our science strategy to help position Wales at the forefront of scientific developments.

Until his retirement earlier this year, Professor Pollock had been the Director of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research at Aberystwyth for 14 years. He is an Honorary Professor of the University of Aberystwyth. He graduated in botany from Cambridge University. His personal research interests are in the areas of plant responses to environmental stress, covering the basic mechanisms of growth, photosynthesis and the storage of reserve carbohydrates in grasses, cereals and legumes.

Chris Pollock said: I am absolutely delighted to have the opportunity to take up this important position and I look forward to helping the Welsh Assembly Government have an appropriate voice in the development of science in the twenty-first Century.

Notes to editors

- Professor Pollock will take up his appointment in November 2007

18 September 2007