General

Members of the Science Council

Science Council member biographies and registers of interest. The Science Council comprises an independent Chair, and seven independent members.

The members of the Science Council are:

Professor John O'Brien (Chair)

[Professor J O'Brien](#) is Founder of the Food Observatory, UK and a Visiting Professor at Ulster University, Coleraine. In his previous career to 2018 he led the Nestlé global competence centre for Food Safety & Quality and the company's Food Safety and Integrity Research Programme in Lausanne, Switzerland. He is also a former head of food safety for the Danone Group in Paris.

Professor Peter Borriello CB

[Peter Borriello](#) has had a long career in research and has led human and veterinary national institutions. These have included the Public Health Laboratory Service Central Public Health Laboratory, the Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, and most recently Chief Executive of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

Professor Emily Burton

[Professor Emily Burton](#) is Professor of Sustainable Food Production and co-lead for Nottingham Trent University Sustainable Futures Research Theme. She has worked alongside the poultry industry on research programmes for 25 years and now leads the University's Poultry Nutrition Research Unit.

Professor Steven Cummins

[Steven Cummins](#) is Professor of Population Health and NIHR Senior Investigator in the Department of Public Health, Environments & Society at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine where he also co-leads LSHTM's Population Health

Innovation Lab. He is a geographer with training in epidemiology and public health and his research interests include the role of the food environment in determining diet-related health and health inequalities, the evaluation of food system policies and interventions and complex systems thinking. Much of this work is focused on food retail system transformation and its implications for sustainable and healthy diets, with a particular interest in the impact of technology-driven changes (delivery, advertising, retail, sustainability) and the evaluation of population-level interventions to change food purchasing behaviours.

He has a strong interest in the funding and delivery of innovative and impactful public health research and evidence-based policy. He has served as Chair and Member of many strategic funding committees in the UK and internationally, acted as a member of the Global Advisory Committee of The Movember Foundation and was previously a member of the FSA's Social Science Research Committee (now ACSS). Outside of his academic role he has spent over a decade as Governor and Chair of Governors of a number of primary and secondary schools in South East London, some of it with a remit for improving school food.

Professor Peter Gregory

[Professor Gregory](#) is Emeritus Professor of Global Food Security at the University of Reading having previously been Professor of Soil Science at the same university. He is chair of the Recommended List Board for the AHDB and the board of Crops For the Future UK CIC.

Jacqueline Healing

[Mrs Jacqueline Healing](#) is a Food scientist with over 40 year's experience directing and leading food safety programmes for food retailers globally.

Claire Nicholson

[Claire Nicholson](#) is the Science Council member representing the consumer interest and has held a range of roles representing consumer interests including having been an Independent Director to represent Consumer Interests on the Board of Red Tractor.

Professor Tom Oliver

[Professor Tom Oliver](#) is the Research Dean for Environment at the University of Reading and a Professor of Applied Ecology. He has advised Defra in the UK government, helping them to set up a '[Systems Research Programme](#)', and the Cabinet Office on '[chronic risks](#)' to complement the UK National Security Risk Assessment.

Professor Simon Pearson

[Simon Pearson](#) is Professor of Agri-Food Technology and Founding Director of the Lincoln Institute of Agri-Food Technology at the University of Lincoln. He specialises in interdisciplinary research that spans the agri-food system, including agri-food robotics, use of digital systems in food manufacturing, the application of AI across the food chain and data governance in complex systems.

Professor Richard Smith

[Professor Richard Smith](#) is Professor of Public Health Economics and Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor for the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences at the University of Exeter. He was previously the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Strategy Integration and Resources, and prior to Exeter was Dean of the Faculty of Public Health & Policy at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Professor Michael Tildesley

[Michael Tildesley](#) is a Professor in the Zeeman Institute for Systems Biology and Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research at the University of Warwick. His research focuses upon the development of models of infectious diseases and their utility as predictive tools.

Professor Jonathan Wastling

[Professor Wastling](#) is Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Brunel University, London. He is a Professor of Infection Biology specialising in human and animal infectious diseases with a long-standing interest in food security.