



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT
PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

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Background



Science & Technology
Facilities Council

Φxford
Physics



Palace of Westminster



House of Lords



House of Commons



Parliament



House of Commons

- 650 MPs
- Elected from constituencies across the country
- Belong to any/no party

House of Lords

- ~400 active Peers
- Life peers: appointed by Queen on recommendation of PM
- Archbishops and bishops
- Hereditary peers: phased out

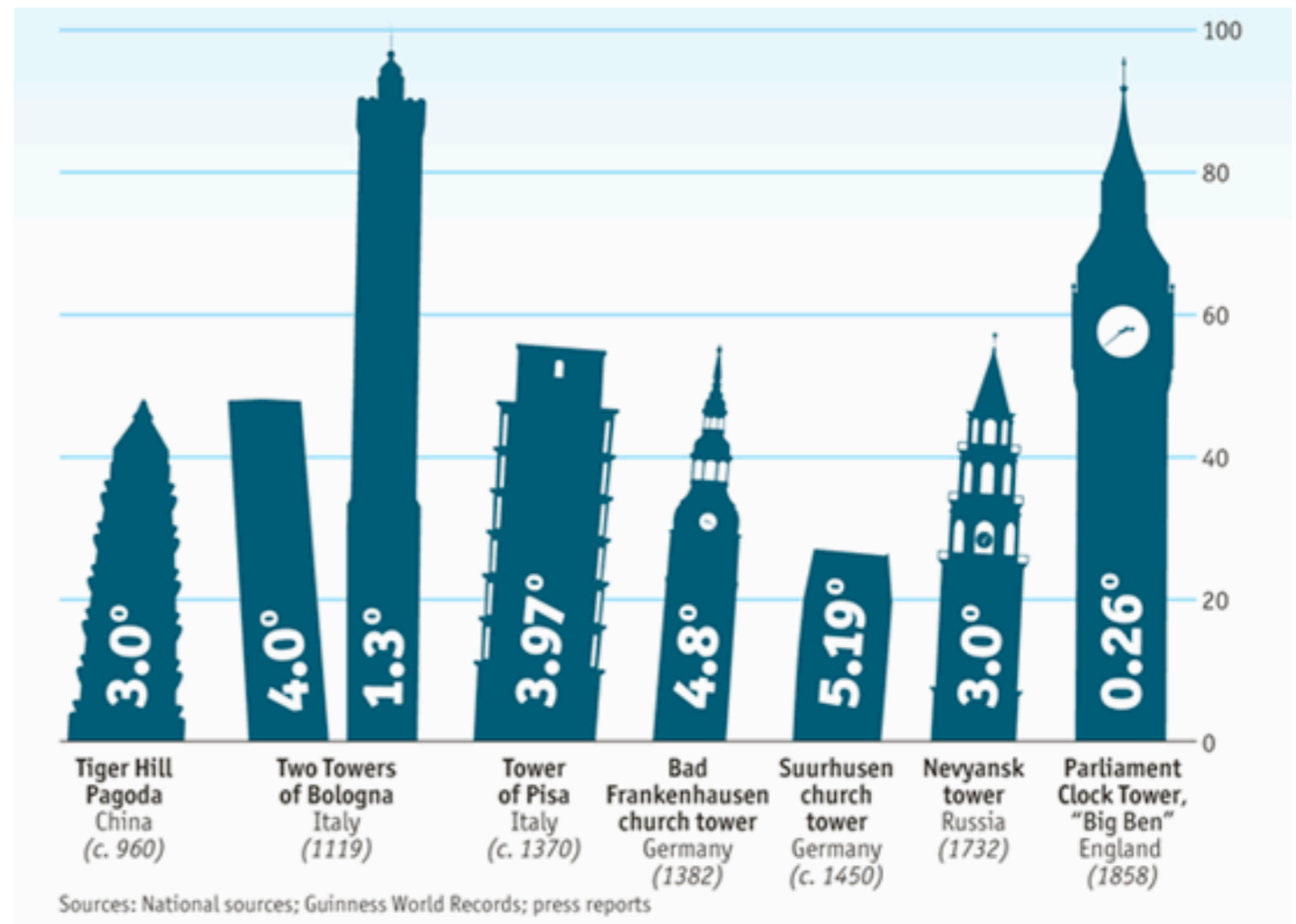
Parliament and Government

- Parliament: the Legislative
 - “Power to make or unmake any law whatsoever”
 - Examines, debates, approves new laws
 - Scrutinises the work of government
- Government: the Executive
 - Drafts laws
 - Conducts business of state
 - Implements policy



Science in Parliament

- Libraries
- Select committees
- All party parliamentary groups
- Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology



Introduction to POST

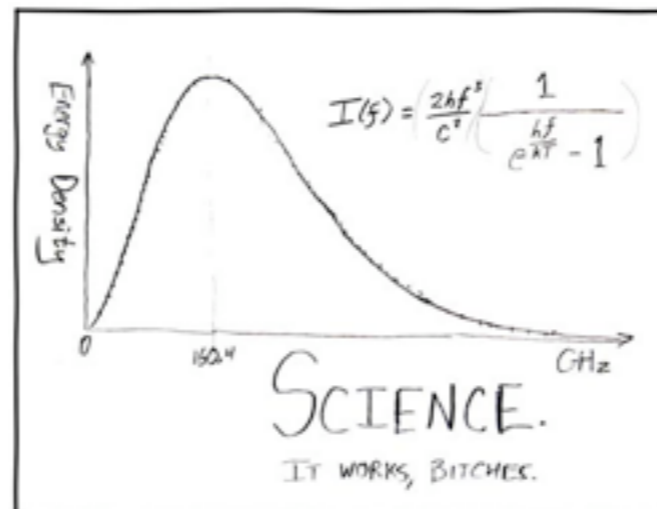
- Office of both houses
- Aims to provide independent and accessible analysis of public policy issues relating to science and technology



Houses of Lords
and Commons



POST



Introduction to POST

History of POST:

1989: POST launched with charitable funding

1992; POST adopted as a Parliamentary body

2001: Parliament makes POST a permanent institution

Administration of POST:

Board: Parliamentarians, science experts, house librarians

Director and Six full time members of staff

Around 20 fellows per year

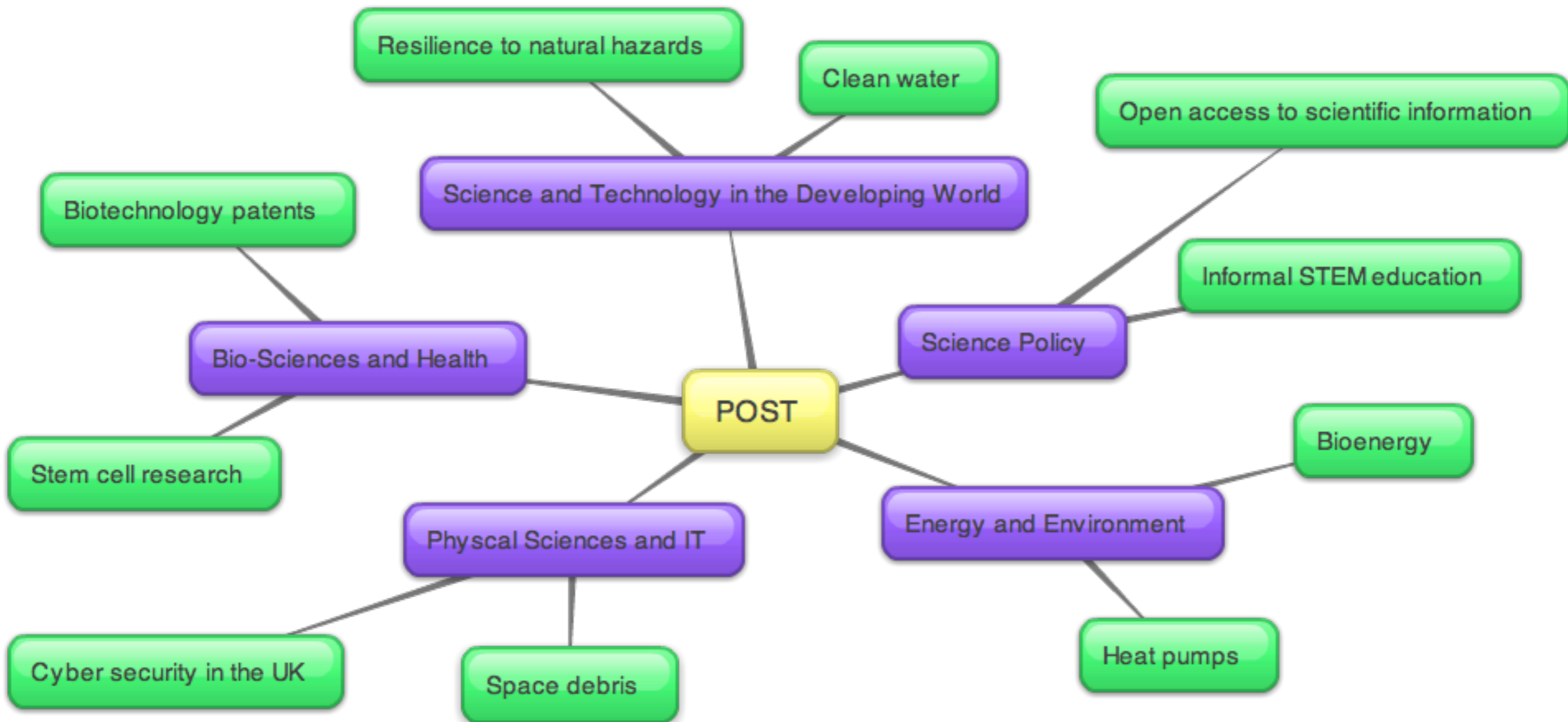


What POST does

- Peer reviewed briefings and reports (20 - 30 per year)
- Support for Parliamentary committees
- Parliamentary seminars and events (once a month)
- Horizon scanning



Example publications



Dissemination of information

- Website 30k note downloads per month
- Events
- Mailing lists:

MPs	220
MP's researchers	44
Peers	172
MEPs	9
Clerks of both houses	38
Other Parliamentary staff	120
External	1485



Impact of POST

Survey in 2009 showed Parliamentarians' use of POST:

- From 52 randomly selected parliamentarians....
- 90% used POST to inform parliamentary debate
- 50% used POST in their select committee work
- 70% read POSTnotes for general interest
- 30% of MPs and 50% of Peers use POST to table parliamentary questions
- 4% of MPs and 13% of Peers said they would not use POST at all



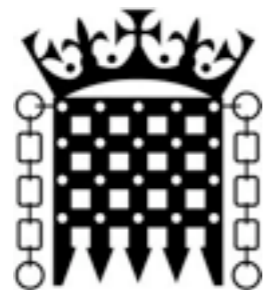
POST in the Wider World

- Collaborates with the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments
- Founding member of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment (EPTA) Network
- POSTnotes are translated into Polish if relevant
- POST Africa programme
 - ▶ Funded by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation
 - ▶ Supporting African parliaments to strengthen their capacity in science and technology



How to get involved

- Apply to the Fellowship scheme
- Sign up to the newsletter
- Join the mailing list to receive the publications
- Follow us on twitter @POST_UK



<http://www.parliament.uk/post>



Backup



Title

- text

Title



Parliament

