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How will a 24 Hour Society affect us all?

PN: 46/05

Issue date: 7th November 2005

EPSRC and Swindon play leading role in assessing future impact of the 24- Hour Society

Wednesday 9th November 2005,
1 – 3 pm, Portcullis House, House of Commons

As Society draws closer to round the clock working, shopping and socialising, Swindon is today (9th Nov) playing an important part in assessing the future impact that a 24-Hour Society will have on our lives.

Swindon based Research Council EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) along with the MP for South Swindon, Anne Snelgrove, are involved in a seminar on the issue at the House of Commons today.

The seminar is jointly hosted by EPSRC and **POST** (the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology), and will be chaired by Anne Snelgrove.

The event will be based on a POST briefing document known as a 'Postnote' (compiled as a research document for politicians). The analytical work for this briefing was carried out by Mathematics PhD Oliver Tearne from the **Warwick Mathematics Institute**. Oliver spent 3 months carrying out the research which was funded through the Joint EPSRC and POST Postgraduate Initiative.

To compile the note Oliver had to talk to scientists and experts about everything from new licensing laws to research into accidents caused by sleep deprivation.

Oliver said his time at POST has been very valuable: "It was a thrill to interview experts from government departments, academia and industry, and to produce a document that will help legislators understand the latest research."

"The move towards a society that operates on a 24 hour basis will bring tremendous changes because every aspect of our lives will be affected," said Anne Snelgrove. "This type of research is invaluable in helping us to meet those challenges and prepare for the future as work-life balance is one of the major issues facing us all."

Catherine Coates, EPSRC's Director of Planning and Communication said, "EPSRC's involvement in this postgraduate initiative means that talented people like Oliver have the chance to use their skills in a new way. The 'Postnote' that Oliver has compiled will help inform parliamentary debate in this area."

Notes for Editors:

POST is the UK Parliament's in-house source of independent, balanced and accessible analysis of public policy issues related to science and technology. Its aim is to inform parliamentary debate. You can find out more about POST by



Oliver Tearne

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dispose of
throwaway society

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to EPSRC

visiting www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_offices/post.cfm

The Joint EPSRC and POST Postgraduate Initiative gives an EPSRC PhD award holder in their 2nd or 3rd year the opportunity to undertake a three month placement at the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology working on issues of public policy interest.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is the UK's main agency for funding research in engineering and the physical sciences. The EPSRC invests more than £500 million a year in research and postgraduate training, to help the nation handle the next generation of technological change. The areas covered range from information technology to structural engineering, and mathematics to materials science. This research forms the basis for future economic development in the UK and improvements for everyone's health, lifestyle and culture. EPSRC also actively promotes public awareness of science and engineering. EPSRC works alongside other Research Councils with responsibility for other areas of research. The Research Councils work collectively on issues of common concern via [Research Councils UK](#).

For more information on the Seminar and the 24-Hour Society postnote contact:

Dr Chandrika Nath at POST, tel: 020 7219 3891, e-mail: nathc@parliament.uk

A picture of Oliver Tearne is available from the EPSRC press office. Please contact Natasha Richardson, tel: 01793 444404, e-mail: natasha.richardson@epsrc.ac.uk

Last modified 08 November 2005

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