

Mark Henderson's 'Geek Manifesto' and the importance of science in politics

Hundreds of voters really want you to read this book!

Dear <MPs Name here>,

With the summer recess on the horizon, I thought I would send you something for the top of your summer reading list. Please find enclosed a copy of a new book by Mark Henderson titled "The Geek Manifesto: Why Science Matters". I hope you will enjoy it as much as I did.

James Wilsdon, in the Financial Times said:

"The Geek Manifesto is the most compelling, engaging and entertaining account I've read of the relationship between science and politics."

Henderson's book laments the undervalued role of science in British politics, and I personally found it quite depressing in places. For many MPs, science has become a tool to be exploited when it supports a predetermined policy position, and an inconvenience to be distorted or discarded when it does not. As Henderson puts it, the cynical quest for policy-based evidence has trumped the desperate need for evidence-based policy.

But the book is also very positive and inspiring. The state of affairs it laments is not the fault of MPs. It is, at least in part, the fault of us, the people who value science and evidence based decision making. We "geeks" must engage in the political process, not stand on the sidelines and moan.

This thinking led me to start a campaign for people to pledge to buy a copy of this book and send it to every MP. Your book is a result of this campaign. Please take the time to read the book. If the politicians can learn from the geeks and the geeks can learn from the politicians we will all get wiser and decision making can only improve.

Yours Sincerely

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As I'm sure you are well aware, times are very tough but, despite that, hundreds of ordinary people (voters) have spent real money to send you these books. These are some of their names:

Robert Wilson	Paul Fennell	Mark Hayes	John Waterworth	Martyn Norris
Mark Henderson	Linda Ray	Laura Thomason	Alex Dawn	Alan Henness
James O'Malley	Sylvia McLain	Jo Brodie	Adam Smith	Prateek Buch
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Kenton Sumner	Julie Gould	Stephen Curry	Sykes	Pete Etchells
Robert Williams	Mike Agg	Stan Blakey	Kash Farooq	Gergely Cziraki
Nic Gibson	Hilary Minor	Jon Schneider	Alom Shaha	Gary Frewin
Tom Crick	Simon Singh	Andy Gardiner	Chris Gerhard	Alan Crowe
Elizabeth Lutgendorff	Dave Cross	Tom Wells	Harriet Gliddon	Dave Bailes
Athene Donald	John Hartwell	David Durant	James Wilsdon	Neil Williams

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Stephenson	John Stabler	Lynda McKenna	Nick Sharples	Barry Platt
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Andrea Sella	Annabel Huxley	Harley Williams	Chris sexton	Linda Goulden
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Dagfinn Ilmari	Steven Milne	IncredibleMouse	Neil Goldsmith	
Mannsåker	Stuart G Hall	Jim Smith	Jessica Watson	