The case of Professor Nutt, who chaired the government's advisory committee on drug use in the UK, raised some important issues about scientists who gave official advice to politicians. In their study of the case, the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology concluded that there was a need for the Ministerial Code in relation to scientific advice to be revised, and that the revision should include the following principles:

1. It is right that scientists advise but politicians decide.

2. Government should publish the advice they have received and their reasons for accepting or rejecting it.

3. Government/politicians need to be clear in asking for scientific advice what is the basis for the request and how the advice may be used.

The Select Committee's conclusions were accepted by the Government.