

Terms of Reference for Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee

- To advise officials, UK Ministers, including Ministers in the Devolved Administrations, and other relevant bodies, on request or otherwise:
 - on matters of relevance at a domestic, European and global level, relating to the protection of the environment, and human health via the environment, from potentially hazardous substances and articles, including nanomaterials; including on future issues of concern, on impacts and on wider strategic linkages;
 - on the assessment of risks associated with potentially hazardous substances and articles, including nanomaterials;
 - on research needs and other evidence gaps relating to potentially hazardous substances and articles, including nanomaterials; including analysing, interpreting, and assessing the quality and relevance of, evidence.
- To advise officials and UK Ministers, including Ministers in the Devolved Administrations, on request or otherwise, on policy development and evaluation, including the impact of different policy options; the assessment of new regulations and deregulation, and the development of voluntary initiatives, best practice advice and formal guidance, which are relevant to its remit.

Protocol on relationship between the Defra Chief Scientific Adviser and the Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee

- To report to, and engage with, the Defra Chief Scientific Adviser, and through them, the Defra Science Advisory Council.
- To support the Defra Chief Scientific Adviser, as necessary, during emergencies.
- To operate in line with the Government's Principles for Scientific Advice and the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees.

Protocol on relationship between the lead Defra Minister and the Hazardous Substances Advisory Committee

- The lead Defra Minister for this committee will:
 - Set Terms of Reference for the committee;
 - Agree strategic work plans, receive reports and advice; and
 - Receive periodic reviews of the committee's functions and value for money;
 - Consult the Devolved Administrations and other Departments as appropriate, about the committee and its work.