Vacancies on the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF)

The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) is looking for a new Chair and three new members to provide independent advice to government on matters relating to the official monitoring of pesticide residues in the UK food supply chain (both imported and domestic production).

PRiF provides advice to UK government Ministers including the devolved administrations, the Food Standards Agency, and the Health and Safety Executive.

The committee consists of up to eight members; six selected for their scientific or technical expertise related to food and the food industry and two members with expertise in public interest issues. Members do not represent a sectoral interest but are appointed on their experience and ability.

The PRiF is particularly seeking expertise for the vacancies in the following areas.

Any potential candidates who would like advice on whether their particular expertise would be valuable to the committee now or in the future should get in touch with the Secretary for advice, or to be put in contact with existing members.

**PRiF Chair (one post) Ref: PRiF 01/2019**
You will have experience in managing complex discussions related to consumer health, and chairing meetings with interdisciplinary interests.

You will have the ability to act as the public face of the committee, and deal with the media, public, and stakeholders. (The successful candidate would receive specific media training)

Ideal you will have knowledge of health issues related to chemicals and/or food safety issues, and experience in toxicology would be an advantage.

**PRiF Public Interest Member (environmental and/or consumer) (lay member) (one post) Ref: PRiF 02/2019**
You will have a broad understanding of consumer issues and concerns in relation to food and farming.

You will have experience in reflecting the views of the public and in working collaboratively with people with a range of backgrounds including scientific/technical expertise on matters similarly of public interest.

You will be able to assist the committee in explaining scientific, technical or complex issues clearly and accessibly to stakeholders.

**PRiF Animal Products Member (one post) Ref: PRiF 03/2019**
You will have current knowledge and ideally practical experience in relation to animal product (meat and/or milk) supply from production through to consumers.
You will have knowledge of current understanding of the incidence and possible sources of residues from biocide (disinfectants), and on best practice for sanitation of food product surfaces and equipment.

You will have understanding of the operation and structure of the industry from farm to fork (domestic and imported), including supply relationships between producers and their immediate customers (brand owners and manufacturers).

PRiF Toxicology and/or food science expert (one post) Ref: PRIF 04/2019

You will have relevant scientific qualifications with considerable postgraduate experience in toxicology and/or human health risk assessments and have gained recognition within the scientific community. Knowledge of pesticides would be an advantage.

You will need to critically review written consumer risk assessments as well as give opinions on consumer risk issues and to consider analytical data.

Ideally you will have a proven track record of communicating risk assessment and conclusions, accurately and clearly to non-experts.

General qualities and experience required

The successful candidates should have:
- the ability to work as part of a team;
- good communication skills
- good judgement and an open-minded approach;
- the ability to weigh issues and arrive at sound, balanced and timely decisions;
- an appreciation of the impact of decisions on people, including consumers and the food and farming industry

Potential applicants will need to be able to demonstrate their ability to contribute to detailed technical discussions. Applicants should have relevant experience and have gained recognition within their specific area of expertise or community.

The posts are part-time and voluntary, although modest travel and subsistence costs are met and attendance fees paid. Applicants should be aware that the work can generate some public and media interest. Travel and subsistence costs will be met for attendance at interviews for these posts.

Appointments will be based on merit, with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process. The government and devolved administrations are committed to the principles of equal opportunities and welcome applications from all sections of the Community regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, colour, ethnic origin, religion or disability. Women, representatives of ethnic minority communities and people with disabilities are currently under-represented on government committees and applications from these groups are therefore particularly welcome.

If you are interested in serving and have the necessary qualifications and experience, an information pack is available from:

Email: committee.recruitment@hse.gov.uk
Post: Committee Recruitment
Chemicals Regulation Division
Ground Floor
Mallard House
3 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Telephone: 0203 028 1141

Closing Date: 12.00 Noon, Friday, 6 September 2019