



**Telephone:** 020 7238 5719

**Web:** [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Date:** 7 July 2011

Dear Consultee

## **Consultation on the future of the Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances**

1. I am writing to invite views on (i) the proposed abolition of the Advisory Committee on hazardous Substances (ACHS) as a statutory Non Departmental Public Body, as provided for under the Public Bodies Bill currently before Parliament, following the Government's Arms Length Body Review; and (ii) the Government's preferred option to simultaneously reconstitute this body as a new expert scientific committee. We are also seeking views on proposed new Terms of Reference, and a name, for the successor body.

There are three options under consideration:

Option A Do not abolish the ACHS as an Advisory NDPB

Option B Abolish the ACHS and put nothing in its place

Option C Abolish the ACHS and reconstitute it as an expert scientific committee

Option C is the Government's preferred option, for reasons explained in the consultation document.

2. The following documents may be found on Defra's website:

[www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/07/07/achs/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2011/07/07/achs/)

- A copy of this letter
- The consultation document
- A list of consultees

3. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact:

Secretariat  
Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances  
Defra  
Area 2A  
Nobel House



17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Tel: 020 7238 5719

Email: [chemicals.strategy@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:chemicals.strategy@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

## Responses

4. Please send responses to either:

Patrice Mongelard  
Defra  
Area 2A  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Or email: [patrice.mongelard@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:patrice.mongelard@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

5. Responses should be received by **14 October 2011**.

## Consultation Criteria

This consultation complies with HM Government's Code of Practice on Consultation which can be found at: <http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/better-regulation/consultation-guidance>

6. When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.
7. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.
8. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp> . This summary will include a list

of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra  
Information Resource Centre  
Lower Ground Floor  
Ergon House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

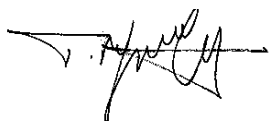
Telephone: 020 7238 6575

Email: [defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Please give the library 24 hours' notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.

9. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk).
10. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us, as above.

Yours faithfully



**Patrice Mongelard**  
**ACHS Secretariat**  
**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**