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/

   - 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
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

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

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.

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