The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF)

Recruitment of new Chair and new Members

Information pack for applicants

The closing date for the receipt of applications for these posts is:
12 midnight, Sunday 5 April 2020
1. **The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF)**

**About the PRiF**
The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food was established in 2010, replacing the Pesticide Residues Committee (PRC).

The PRiF has a key role in checking the safety of food on sale in the UK. The committee is made up of experts who advise Ministers on the planning of the surveillance programme and the evaluation of surveillance data. The current programme involves the analysis of around 3,400 samples at a cost of around £2 million.

The Committee holds five one-day meetings each year usually in York but occasionally elsewhere in the UK. First appointments have a term of three or four years, reappointments will be considered after that period.

**Role of pesticide residues surveillance**
The surveillance programme:

- checks that the residues in food people eat and drink are within acceptable levels;
- checks that residues do not go over maximum residue levels (MRLs) set by law; and
- backs up the legal process of approving pesticides and setting MRLs by checking that there are no unexpected residues;

**Composition of the committee**
The committee has up to nine members; up to seven selected for their scientific or technical expertise in areas relevant to food surveillance and the food industry and up to two members with expertise in consumer and public interest issues. Members are not appointed to represent a sectoral interest but are expected to provide advice based on their experience and ability areas of expertise such as:

- food science
- food safety/risk assessment,
- horticultural industry,
- fresh produce industry
- food manufacturing/food retailing industry.
- consumer and public interest

The committee is supported by:

- assessors from Government bodies who attend the committee meetings:
  - Health and Safety Executive, who regulate pesticides in the UK on behalf of Defra and the devolved administrations and who are operationally responsible for the delivery of the pesticide residues surveillance programme.
  - Food Standards Agency
  - Defra
- the devolved administrations
- the Health and Safety Executive’s Chemicals Regulation Division (CRD) which provides the secretariat to the Committee. Its role is to organise and produce a record of the meetings and support the Chair and committee in matters of administration and protocol.

**The Surveillance Programme**

The Committee advises HSE on the UK’s annual pesticide residues monitoring programme

HSE’s approach to developing the programme is risk-based, based on evidence of issues with pesticide residues and of the dietary importance of food. A high priority is also attached to meeting legal requirements in UK law. The programme includes over 3,400 food samples at an annual cost of around £2 million.

The majority of samples are from retail outlets (such as supermarkets, independent grocers and market stalls) throughout the UK. These samples are purchased on behalf of HSE by a market research company. Government Inspectors also collect samples from ports, wholesalers and import points.

Most analysis are by multi-residue methods, which test for a wide range of pesticides in a single test. Single residue methods are also used where those residues are likely or are of particular interest.

PRiF advises on the communication of the results as well as on the content of the programme. PRiF focuses on the risk to consumers from residues as well as breach of legal limits and any indications of poor practice.

**Communications Sub-Group**

PRiF’s role includes communication with stakeholders. The Communications Sub-Group considers key communications identified by the main committee in detail to ensure there are both as accurate and as clear as possible, taking into account the audience needs.

The sub-group is made up of members from the Committee and is currently chaired by the public interest member.

**The PRiF Analytical Sub-group**

PRiF is also advised by a technical group whose main function is to review the results of analysis of all the contributing laboratories before they send them to the HSE. They do this to make sure the committee is using reliable results. The group is made up of members drawn from the laboratories which carry out analysis for the programme. It meets on a quarterly basis and reports to the main committee.

**Reporting of results**

PRiF publishes on the GOV.uk and data.gov.uk websites. The committee publish:
- an annual report written in plain English
- quarterly reports including brand name details of the samples
- monthly rolling reporting surveys.

**Terms of Reference**
To advise Ministers and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on:
- the planning of surveillance programmes for pesticide residues in the UK food supply and the evaluation of the results.
- whether research is required to develop new methods for pesticide analysis of survey results.

The committee makes its findings available to Government, consumers and the food and farming industries in a way which aims to be complete, easily understandable and timely.

**Further information**
For further information about the current role of the committee you may wish to visit the Committee’s page on GOV.uk

### 2. Details of vacancies

**The roles**
The PRiF is looking for a new Chair and three Members with specialist expertise/knowledge in the following areas:

**PRiF Chair (one post)**
You will have experience with chairing meetings including diverse skills and interests and with complex discussions about food and health.
You will act as the public face of the committee, and deal with the public as well as stakeholders and the media. (You will receive specific media training before you are asked to deal with the media and would be supported by Defra or HSE press office staff). You will also represent the PRiF in discussions within the Defra science community.

**Essential criteria**
You should:

- be experienced in managing complex discussions on health issues;
- have experience in dealing sympathetically and accessibly with a broad range of stakeholders (ideally including both the public and the media) on matters that can be of considerable sensitivity; and
- have gained recognition within your field.

**Desirable criteria:**
Ideally you will have

- knowledge of health issues related to chemicals and/or food safety issues; and/or
- experience in consumer risk assessment and/or management of food safety risks

**PRiF Pesticide substances used elsewhere in the food chain (in particular food preparation and processing) for other purposes (one post)**
Pesticides are used to protect plants and influence plant life-processes. The committee’s membership already includes an expert in agronomy and plant production. Pesticide residues can also arise when pesticide substances have other
uses elsewhere in the food chain, mainly for food hygiene purposes. It is important that the committee has expert knowledge in this area.

You will have current knowledge and ideally practical experience in relation to use of chemical products to control microbiological food risks, for instance in chilled or frozen food production, or in animal product (meat and/or milk) supply.

You will have knowledge of current understanding of the incidence and possible sources of pesticide residues from use of other products such as biocides (disinfectants), and on current best practice for sanitising surfaces and equipment used in food production.

You will have understanding of the operation and structure of your particular industry from farm to fork (domestic and imported), including supply relationships between producers and their immediate customers (brand owners and manufacturers). Ideally you will have similar knowledge outside your immediate field.

**Essential criteria:**
You should
- have an understanding of current good practice using for sanitising food processing equipment and surfaces, and of industry concerns relating to regulation of pesticide residues.
- have detailed knowledge of your part of the food industry, as well as experience at managerial or leading level of current microbiological food safety practices.

**Desirable criterion:**
- It would be desirable for you to have some awareness of similar issues in other parts of the food industry.

(Note: It is not necessary to have any background or understanding related to pesticides used to protect growing crops.)

**PRiF Risk assessment/food science expert (one post)**
You will have relevant scientific qualifications with postgraduate experience in human health risk assessments and have gained recognition within the scientific community.

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

**Essential criterion:**
The successful candidate will have:
- Post graduate level knowledge and current experience in one or more of the following related areas:
  - Toxicology in relation to human health risk assessment of pesticides
  - Chemical risk assessment, in relation to consumers
  - Food safety particularly in relation to pesticides or chemical contaminants

The candidate should be aware of the public interest in issues surrounding pesticide residues in food.
Desirable criterion:
• Ideally you will have a proven track record of communicating risk assessment and conclusions, accurately and clearly to non-experts.

PRiF Public Interest Member (environmental and/or consumer lay member) (POSSIBLY one additional post for the right candidate)
PRiF’s role includes communicating results and conclusions in a clear and accessible way. Pesticide residues in food are of interest to people who are not experts in pesticides, food science or food production, including the general public. They want to know how their health is being protected, how any residues found relates to good practice in agriculture, food production and food supply and be assured the PRiF provides independent advice. Public interest members’ input enables the Committee to work in a way that addresses these needs.

Essential criteria
You will:
• be able to assist the committee in identifying viewpoints to be considered and explaining scientific, technical or complex issues clearly and accessibly to stakeholders.
• have experience in working collaboratively with people with a range of backgrounds including scientific/technical expertise on matters similarly of public interest. (This could include working within a voluntary or academic setting on a broad range of consumer or environmental topics as well as collaborating with the food and farming industry.)

Desirable criterion:
An interest or understanding of trends or issues of public interest in any area of relevance to the PRiF’s work would be an advantage.  
(Note: It is not necessary to have any background or technical understanding related to pesticides or food production.)

General qualities and experience required
Members of the PRiF committee work as a team to provide robust, balanced, clear, practical and timely advice to Government on pesticide residues in food.

Good analytical and communication skills are important as Committee Members are required to understand, discuss and negotiate what are sometimes complex scientific issues. Members will also be required to develop an understanding of issues outside their own specialist area and display sound judgement on the implications of any suggested measures.

Applicants will need to demonstrate in your supporting statement examples where your experience matches the essential and, where possible, the desirable skills and criteria below.

Essential criteria
Applicants should have:
• An ability to weigh issues outside your own specialist area and to appreciate the impact that decisions may have on the sustainable use of pesticides.
• An ability to work well as part of a team, with effective communication, negotiating, judgement and influencing skills.

• An ability to clearly communicate about complex issues, combined with strong questioning and problem-solving skills.

## Terms and conditions of appointment

### Members

Terms of office will usually be for periods of three years and members may be reappointed for further terms. In accordance with guidance laid down by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments – the total length of service on the committee should not exceed ten years.

Members may resign at any time by notice in writing to Defra. Defra may also terminate an appointment under certain conditions, which will be notified to the Members on appointment.

### Remuneration and expenses

The Chair receives a fee of £182 per day and members receive a £146 fee per day, plus modest travel and subsistence costs are reimbursed.

Fees and expense are paid for attendance at PRiF meetings, and pro-rata for attendance at sub-groups and other occasions representing the Committee.

## Working methods and procedures

### Time commitment

Committee members are expected to attend at least four business meetings. These last for a day (generally between 10am and 4pm) at HSE’s offices in central York. Upcoming dates for meetings are 13 May 2020, 15 July 2020, 15 October 2020 and 27 January 2021.

Members are also asked to consider, results, other issues between meetings, papers before a meeting and in taking forward actions from meetings.

The Government is keen that all expert scientific committees should allow the public as much access to their discussions and processes as possible. For this reason, the committee holds one business meeting every year which is open to members of the public, as well as one open event where more time is spent explaining and discussing the contents of the Committee’s work in a relatively informal setting.

### Location of offices

The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food has no premises of its own. It meets in central York and is supported by HSE staff based at Mallard House, Peasholme Green, York.

## 3. Applying for a post

### How to apply

Applicants should provide/complete:
Details of the post(s) for which they are applying.

A CV.

A supporting statement of not more than two sides of A4 (12 pt. Arial font), setting out how they meet the essential and desirable criteria for the post(s) for which they are applying. This should highlight, where necessary, any real or perceived conflicts of interest, in order that it can be discussed at interview, if the applicant is short-listed.

Contact details of two referees.

The ‘Other Information’ form

The diversity monitoring questionnaire.

The political activity questionnaire.

Completed documentation should be emailed to us by 12am on Sunday 5 of April 2020. Email to committee.recruitment@hse.gov.uk

4. Selection process

How HSE will handle applications
The advertisement and/or this information pack provides details of the specific vacancies.

We will acknowledge receipt of application forms.

We will short-list applications in the week starting the 13 April

Applicants will be notified in writing via email whether or not they have been short-listed.

References will be taken up if candidates are selected for interview.

The interviews are expected to take place on the 28 and 29 April

All candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application.

Selection panel
The panel will be chaired by a senior Defra official. The other panel members will be another relevant official and a government specialist with the relevant expertise for the post applied for.

Short-listing
A short-listing panel will determine which candidates best demonstrate that they have the specified qualities and experience, who will then be invited for interview.

It is therefore essential for your paperwork to give full but concise information/evidence relevant to the appointment.
**Interviews**

Interviews are likely to take place in York, however alternative arrangements such as web-based interviews could be made if necessary. The date of interviews is to be confirmed and should last in the region of 45 minutes.

Applicants will be able to claim for reasonable expenses incurred travelling to and from interview. To request a claim form please contact the PRiF secretariat by email at prif@hse.gov.uk

**Equal opportunities**

These appointments will be governed by the principle of public appointment based on merit with independent assessment and transparency of process. Defra is committed to improving the diversity of their public bodies and welcomes applications irrespective of race, ethnic or national origin, sex, marital status, disability, sexual orientation, religion, belief, age, gender or re-assignment. We would particularly welcome candidates from under-represented groups, for example women, people with disabilities and people from black and minority ethnic communities.

**Further Information**

For further information on the role of the PRiF, your application or the recruitment process please email Helena Cooke, Committee Secretariat on prif@hse.gov.uk

**Annex A: PRiF – Terms of Reference**

The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food will work closely with the Chemicals Regulation Directorate and the Food Standards Agency, to:

- provide independent advice to the Health and Safety Executive and the Food Standards Agency (FSA), and UK Ministers\(^1\), on the planning of surveillance programmes for pesticide residues in the UK food supply;
  - the evaluation of the results; and
  - procedures for sampling, sample processing and new methods of analysis.
- make its findings and recommendations available to Government, consumers and the food and farming industries in a way which aims to be comprehensive, understandable and timely.
- report to Defra’s Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA); Chairs of expert committees will meet annually with the CSA and provide an annual summary of the work of the committee to Defra’s Annual Report of the Science Advisory Council (SAC);
- support the CSA as appropriate during emergencies; and
- operate in line with the Government’s Principles for Scientific Advice and the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees.

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\(^1\) The Ministers referred to are: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministers of the Scottish Government, Welsh ministers and the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland
General terms of reference for Defra Scientific Advisory Committees

Defra’s access to independent, authoritative, impartial and timely science and technical advice, and the experts who provide it, is vital to support our policies, priorities and responsibilities. Details are available on Defra’s website.

The lead Defra Minister for the Pesticide Residues in Food Expert 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.

The Expert Committee has the ultimate right to escalate matters to UK Ministers.

As an Expert Committee of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Pesticide Residues in Food Committee will:

1. Provide advice to, and work collaboratively with, officials and key office holders such as the Defra Chief Scientific Adviser, the Chief Veterinary Officer or the Chief Economist, other delivery partners (e.g. Network bodies, other departments and Government agencies, the devolved administrations, other public bodies, EU and international technical and expert groups). Contribute to developing the evidence base, analysing and interpreting evidence and providing judgements on quality and relevance.
2. Working strategically, help to: identify future issues of concern; provide advice and interpretation on state and impacts; connect to related agendas both in other Government Departments (OGD) and elsewhere in business and civic society.
3. Input to policy development and evaluation by Defra and OGD, in areas covered by its remit, by helping, where relevant, to: assess the impacts of different policy options; undertake risk assessment; assess new regulations and deregulation; develop voluntary initiatives.
4. Assisting with technical support for Defra e.g. EU technical groups, Defra/devolved administration research projects, advising on scope for specific projects and research.
5. Contribute to best practice advice and formal guidance e.g. for industry, business, civil society, voluntary organisations, local communities etc. as appropriate within their remit.
6. Help Defra and its delivery partners in responding to emergency situations by providing expert advice and opinion as necessary.

In the course of its work the Committee may publish reports and advice. Publication will normally be through Defra channels. The Committee will also be expected to contribute to departmental reports, publications or guidance.

Annex B: PRiF – Membership as at July 2019

Chair:
Annex C: PRiF Code of Practice

1. Introduction
1.1 This code of conduct guides members of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food as to their role and duties as committee members, the extent of their personal liability for the committee’s actions and the circumstances in which they should declare interests in the food or pesticides industry.

2. Definitions
2.1 In this code, reference to ‘the Ministers’ is to the Ministers responsible for pesticide regulation in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department of Health, the Department for Works and Pensions, the Scottish Executive, and the National Assembly for Wales.

2.2 In this code, reference to the ‘Chief Executives’ is to the Director of the Chemicals Regulations Division and the Chief Executive Food Standards Agency.

2.3 In this code, ‘pesticides industry’ means:

(i) companies, partnerships or individuals who are involved with the manufacture, sale or supply of pesticide products subject to the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997 or the Plant Protection Products Regulations 1995;

(ii) trade associations representing companies involved with such products;

(iii) companies, partnerships or individuals who are directly concerned with research, development or marketing of a pesticide product which is being considered by the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF).

2.4 In this code, ‘food industry’ means:
(i) companies, partnerships or individuals who are involved with the production, manufacture, packaging, sale, advertising, or supply of food or food processes, subject to the Food Safety Act 1990;

(ii) companies, partnership or individuals who are directly concerned with research, development or marketing of any product that is a food contaminant or whose waste products are food contaminants, or where activities are related to the food surveillance programme directed by the committee;

(iii) trade associations representing companies involved with such products.

2.5 In this code ‘the secretariat’ means the secretariat of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food.

3. Public service values

3.1 Members of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food are expected to observe the highest standards of **impartiality, integrity and objectivity** in relation to the advice they provide and the management of the committee.

3.2 The Minister for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs is answerable to Parliament for the policies and performance of this body, including the policy framework within which it operates.

3.3 The committee should, however, consider itself **accountable** to Parliament and the public for its activities and for the quality of the advice it provides. To this end, the committee should comply fully with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and act in accordance with Government policy on **openness**. The secretariat will be responsible for the day to day provision of information.

4. Standards in public life

4.1 All Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food Members must:-

   (i) **follow the Seven Principles of Public Life** set out by the committee on Standards in Public Life;

   (ii) **comply with this Code**, and ensure they understand their duties, rights and responsibilities, and that they are familiar with the function and role of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food and the relevant statements of Government policy. Any questions may be directed to the secretariat;

   (iii) **not misuse information** gained in the course of their work with the committee for personal gain or for political purpose;

   (iv) not seek to use the opportunities presented by their membership to promote their private interests or those of connected persons, firms, businesses or other organisations; and

   (v) not hold any paid or high-profile unpaid posts in a political party, and not engage in specific political activities on matters directly affecting the work of the committee. When engaging in other political activities, committee
members should be conscious of their public role and exercise proper discretion.

5. **Role of committee members**

5.1 Members of the committee have collective responsibility for the operation of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food. They must:

(i) engage fully in collective consideration of the issues, taking account of the full range of relevant factors, including any guidance issued by or on behalf of the Ministers;

(ii) agree, and submit to the Ministers, an annual summary publication; and

(iii) ensure that the committee does not exceed its powers or functions.

5.2 Communications between the committee and the Minister will be through the HSE assessor. Nevertheless, any committee member has the right of access to Ministers on any matter that he or she believes raises important issues relating to his or her duties as a committee member. In such cases the agreement of the rest of the committee should normally be sought.

5.3 Individual committee members can be removed from office by the Senior Reporting Officer and the Chair by the Minister if they fail to perform the duties required of them in line with the standards expected in public office.

6. **The role of the Chair**

6.1 The Chair has particular responsibility for providing effective leadership on the issues above. In addition, the Chair is responsible for:

(i) ensuring, with the secretariat, that the committee meets at appropriate intervals, and that the minutes of meetings and any reports to the Senior Reporting Officer and/or the Minister accurately records the decisions taken and, where appropriate, the views of the individual committee members;

(ii) representing the views of the committee to the general public; ensuring that new committee members are briefed on appointment (and their training needs considered); and

(iii) providing an assessment of members’ performance, on request, when they are considered for re-appointment to this committee or for appointment to a board or committee of some other public body

7. **The role of the secretariat**

7.1 The secretariat is responsible for:

(i) ensuring that members are kept informed of developments in policy and administration which concern them;

(ii) ensuring the dispatch of any necessary documents to members of the committee in good time for meetings;
(iii) ensuring that the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (including responses within the time stated by the HSE Service Standards to public requests for information) is adhered to;

(ii) responding appropriately to complaints, if necessary with reference to the Chair and members of the committee;

(iii) ensuring that any follow up action required by the committee is delivered at the appropriate time and in the agreed manner;

(iv) ensuring, with the Chair, that the committee meets at appropriate intervals; and

(v) ensuring the minutes of meetings and any reports to the Chief Executives and Ministers accurately record the decisions taken and, where appropriate, the views of the individual committee members.

8. Conflicts of interest
8.1 To avoid any public concern that commercial interests might affect the advice of the committee, Ministers have decided that the arrangements which govern relationships between committee members and the pesticide and food industry and information on significant and relevant interests should be on public record. Ministers have agreed that less than half of Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food should have food or farming industry interests. The Chair should be among those with no commercial interests.

8.2 To avoid any danger of Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food members being influenced, or appearing to be influenced, by their private interests in the exercise of their public duties, all members should declare commercial interests on the basis set out below. This should include such interests of close family members and of people living in the same household.

9. Different types of interest
9.1 The following is intended as a guide to the kinds of interests which should be declared. Where a member is uncertain as to whether an interest should be declared they should seek guidance from the secretariat or, where it may concern a particular product which is to be considered at a meeting, from the Chair at that meeting. If a Member has an interest not specified in these notes but which they believe could be regarded as influencing their advice they should declare it. However, neither the member nor the secretariat is under an obligation to search out links between one company and another (for example where a company with which the member is connected has an interest in a food industry company of which the member is not aware and could not reasonably be expected to be aware).

Personal interests
9.2 A personal interest involves payment to the member personally. The main examples are:

(i) Consultancies: any consultancy, directorship, position in or work for the food or farming industry that attracts regular or occasional payments in cash or kind.
(ii) **Fee-paid work**: any work commissioned by the pesticides industry for which the member is paid in cash or kind.

(iii) **Share holdings**: any share holding in or other beneficial interest in shares of the food and farming industry. This does not include share holdings through unit trusts or similar arrangements where the member has no influence on financial management.

**Non-personal interests**

9.3 A non-personal interest involves payment which benefits an organisational unit for which a member is responsible, but which is not received by the member personally. The main examples are:-

(i) **fellowships**: the holding of a fellowship endowed by the food industry or other relevant organisation

(ii) **support by the food/farming industry**: any payment, other support or sponsorship by the food industry/farming industry or relevant organisation which does not convey any pecuniary or material benefit to a member personally but which does benefit his position or department, e.g.:

   (a) a grant from a company or relevant organisation for the running of a unit or department for which a member is responsible;

   (b) a grant or fellowship or other payment to sponsor a post or a person in the unit for which a member is responsible. This does not include financial assistance for students;

   (c) the commissioning of research or other work by, or advice from, staff who work in a unit for which a member is responsible.

Members are under no obligation to seek out information about work done by their organisation for or on behalf of the food/farming industry if they would not normally expect to be informed. Where members are responsible for organisations which receive funds from a very large number of companies involved in the food industry, the secretariat can agree with them a summary of non-personal interests rather than draw up a long list of companies.

(iii) **Trusteeships**: any investment in the food industry held by a charity for which a member is a trustee.

10. **Declaration of interests to the secretariat**

10.1 On appointment, members of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food should inform the secretariat in writing of their **current personal and non-personal** interests. Only the name of the company and the nature of the interest is required; the amount involved need not be disclosed to the secretariat. An interest is current if the member has an on-going financial involvement with the food/farming industry, e.g. if they hold shares in a food company, if they have a consultancy contract with a relevant pressure group, or if they are in the process of carrying out work for the food industry. Members should inform the secretariat immediately of any change in their **personal** interests. They will also be asked to complete a declaration form once a year setting out all changes in personal and non-personal interests.
11. **Special position of the chair**
11.1 It is not appropriate for the Chair of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food to have any current interests in the food/farming industry.

12. **Declaration of interests at meetings and participation by members**
12.1 Members are required to declare to the Chair any direct interest in matters under discussion at each meeting.

13. **Record of interests**
13.1 A record is kept by the secretariat of the names of members who have declared interests to the secretariat on appointment, as the interest first arises or through the annual declaration, and the nature of the interest. Information about interests declared by members to the secretariat will be available for scrutiny on the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food website and available to the public on request.

14. **Personal liability of committee members**
14.1 Legal proceedings by a third party against individual members of advisory bodies are very exceptional. The Government has indicated that an individual committee member who has acted honestly and in good faith will not have to meet out of his or her own personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in the execution or purported execution of their committee function, save where the person has acted recklessly.

14.2 Members who need further advice should consult the secretariat.