
Chemicals policy and regulation update**Index**

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1. Update on REACH issues:

1.1 REACH EU-Exit

ECHA have advised that companies continue their Brexit preparations following the decision of the European Council to extend the UK withdrawal negotiation deadline.

ECHA's Brexit window in REACH-IT remains open and their published guidance on the transfer of registrations and other assets from UK entities to EU-27 entities remain valid.

The UK REACH Competent Authority (CA) recommends that all UK based companies download relevant information from their REACH-IT accounts as they may no longer have full access to their REACH IT accounts after the UK withdrawal date.

ECHA has published a list of substances registered only by UK companies, which has been updated. Link [here](#).

1.2 Restrictions

ECHA's submitted restriction proposals for Microplastics; Formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers and Siloxanes D4, D5 and D6 are now at the public consultation phase. Link [here](#).

ECHA have recently withdrawn the intention to restrict oxo-degradable plastics. This was at the request of the Commission due to new legislation and the adoption of a directive on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment. This directive prohibits the placing on the EU market of any product made from oxo-degradable plastics two years after the directive enters into force. Link [here](#).

SEAC have adopted its final opinion backing the proposal to restrict the placing on the market and use of hazardous substances in tattoo inks and permanent make-up. Both RAC and SEAC agree to support this proposal. Link [here](#).

ECHA plan to submit restriction dossiers on the new submission date of 19 July for lead chromates, calcium cyanamide and organophosphate flame retardants.

France/Sweden submitted a restriction dossier in April to restrict skin sensitising, irritative and/or corrosive substances. Link [here](#). Norway submitted a restriction dossier in April to restrict perfluorohexane-1-sulphonic acid, its salts and related substances. Link [here](#). These are now online to give stakeholders time to prepare for the public consultations; aimed to start in June 2019.

1.3 Authorisation

The UK CA are developing processes for managing a UK REACH authorisation scheme, following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. Working jointly with Defra, the UK CA plan to share these authorisation plans in the near future. This could include some CSF members being invited to take part in targeted consultations.

ECHA have updated the formats for applications for authorisation and review reports. The aim is to improve the transparency and efficiency of the application process and to speed up the decision making. Link [here](#).

RAC and SEAC opinions on applications for authorisation are now available for the following substances. Link [here](#).

- One use of chromium trioxide by Doosan Electro-Materials Luxembourg SARL and Doosan Energy Solution Kft - for the passivation of copper foil used in the manufacture of Lithium Ion Batteries for motorised vehicles.
- One use of chromium trioxide by MAHLE Ventiltrieb GmbH and MAHLE Polska Sp. z o.o. - for the functional chrome plating of engine valves for automotive applications.

The Commission has granted authorisations for uses of the following substances: Link [here](#).

- formaldehyde oligomeric reaction products with aniline (technical MDA) - Polynt Composites France
- 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC) - Eli Lilly Kinsale Limited
- 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC) - Bayer Pharma AG
- 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC) - ORGAPHARM
- 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC) - Akzo Nobel Chemicals SpA
- 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC) - Microbeads AS
- 1,2-dichloroethane to OLON Spa
- 1,2-dichloroethane to EURENCO
- chromium trioxide - Hansgrohe SE
- chromium trioxide to Federal-Mogul Friedberg GmbH
- chromium trioxide to Federal-Mogul Valvetrain GmbH
- dibutyl phthalate to AVX Limited
- sodium dichromate to Borealis Plastomers B.V
- sodium chromate and potassium chromate to Saes Getters S.p.A.

1.4 SVHCs

The following substances have been proposed for identification as SVHC; the deadline for comments was 29 April 2019.

- 2,3,3,3-tetrafluoro-2-(heptafluoropropoxy)propanoic acid, its salts and its acyl halides (covering any of their individual isomers and combinations thereof) - the

substances are used as a processing aid in the production of fluorinated polymers. Reason for proposal is 'equivalent level of concern'.

- 2-methoxy ethyl acetate - the substance is not registered under REACH. Reason for proposal is 'toxic for reproduction'.
- Tris(4-nonylphenyl, branched and linear) phosphite (TNPP) with ≥ 0.1 % w/w of 4-nonylphenol, branched and linear (4-NP) - TNPP is primarily used as an antioxidant to stabilise polymers. Reason for proposal is 'equivalent level of concern'.

1.5 Evaluation

ECHA have published substance evaluation conclusions on their website for the following substances:

- imidazole - evaluated by the UK; Link [here](#).
- phenol, paraalkylation products with C10-15 branched olefins (C12 rich) derived from propene oligomerization, carbonates, calcium salts, overbased, sulfurized including distillates (petroleum), hydrotreated, solvent-refined, solvent dewaxed, or catalytic dewaxed, light or heavy paraffinic C15-C50 - evaluated by the Netherlands; Link [here](#).

ECHA has adopted the updated Community Rolling Action Plan (CoRAP) for substance evaluation. This lists 100 substances to be evaluated in the period 2019-2021; 31 substances have been proposed for evaluation in 2019. ECHA encourages registrants of the listed substances to keep their registrations up to date and to contact the evaluating Member States. Link [here](#).

1.6 Reports/Updates / Guidance

ECHA published information

- Integrated Regulatory Strategy Annual Report - this presents a mapping of the registered substances that are on the EU market to help authorities identify, plan and monitor the progress made in identifying and regulating substances of concern. Link [here](#).
- General Report 2018 - outlining ECHA achievements in 2018 and a look forward to their future plans. Link [here](#).
- Conflict of Interest Advisory Committee annual report - for activity in 2018. Link [here](#).
- Annual Stakeholder Survey 2018 results. Link [here](#).
- Annual evaluation report. Link [here](#).
- New practical guide on how to report changes in identity under REACH and CLP - this replaces 'Practical guide 8: How to report changes in identity of legal entities'. Link [here](#).
- New practical guide on how to act in dossier evaluation. Link [here](#).
- Information on high-volume plastic additives - A joint project by ECHA and industry has led to an ECHA list of high-volume plastic additives used in the EU. This list

gives information on over 400 substances which ECHA will use to help identify substances of priority for further assessment. Link [here](#).

- New OEL web pages on the OEL assessment work carried out by ECHA under the Chemical Agents Directive (CAD) and the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (CMD). The new section provides background information on the relevant legislation, and outlines the steps, actors and timelines in the preparation of opinions on OEL values. Also, an activity list providing an up-to-date overview of planned, ongoing and completed OEL activities, including calls for evidence, public consultations and the adoption of final opinions by RAC. Link [here](#).

ECHA updates:

- Registries of intentions for SVHC identification and restriction – have been updated to cover the entire processes for SVHC identification and restriction - starting from the registry of an intention through to an outcome and including committee opinions or agreements. The PACT tool has also been updated to include the outcomes of these processes. This information allows interested parties to track processes and allows time for preparing comments.
- QSAR Toolbox - to now include data from REACH 2018 registrations. Link [here](#).
- Update to list of substances under the Metal and Inorganics Sectoral Approach (MISA) - The MISA is a cooperative programme set up by ECHA and Eurometaux (the European non-ferrous metals association) to address technical and scientific issues facing the metals and inorganics sectors and to improve the registration dossiers in these sectors. Link [here](#).

Workshops:

- MSC-RAC joint workshop - the documents relating to this workshop (held in October 2018) are now available. The workshop was about fine-tuning the testing requirements and evaluation of selected human health endpoints under REACH and CLP. Link [here](#).
- Workshop on applying non-animal strategies for assessing skin sensitisation - the outcomes of this joint workshop (EPAA/Cefic-LRI/IFRA Europe) hosted by ECHA, are now available. Link [here](#).

ECHA safer chemicals conference; 21 and 22 May 2019

The presentations and recordings from ECHA's recent conference are available on ECHA's website. This event featured speakers from ECHA, Member States, industry and NGO and covered topics on improving compliance of registration data, tackling substances of concern and improving the safe use of chemicals. Link [here](#).

ECHA to provide recommendations for OELs

The Commission and ECHA have signed an agreement for ECHA to provide recommendations on a regular basis for OELs (that protect workers exposed to hazardous chemicals). Link [here](#).

ECHA's read-across guidance can be applied for carbon nanotubes

A new study performed at the Commission's JRC has shown the applicability of ECHA's 'recommendations for grouping and read-across' to nanomaterials. The study examined the practical application of ECHA's guidance for 19 different types of multi-walled carbon nanotubes. Link [here](#).

ECHA's new format for reporting of exposure data by downstream users

ECHA's new format is intended to help downstream users of authorised substances report occupational exposure measurements or biomonitoring data related to the tasks performed at their sites. The format aims to ensure that exposure information provided in review reports or initial applications for authorisation covering several downstream sites is of high quality. The availability of such exposure information may help enable industry to better evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of current risk management measures. Link [here](#).

Decision on data-sharing appeal

In this case (A-010-2017), a previous registrant challenged ECHA's decision to grant a potential registrant permission to refer to information from tests on vertebrate animals. The Board of Appeal found that ECHA was correct in finding that the potential registrant had made every effort and so the appeal was dismissed. This highlights that in cases where terms are not transparent and/or are unfair and/or discriminatory, then ECHA can grant permissions to data. Link [here](#).

1.7 Consultations

Calls for evidence are underway on lead and its compounds, and on diisocyanates for setting OEL values. The purpose is to gather information (for example on uses, exposure, health effects), to help ECHA draft reports relating to health-based exposure limits at the workplace. The deadline for comments is 30 June 2019. Link [here](#).

Consultations are underway on the applications for authorisation for the following substances. The deadline for comments is 17 July 2019. Further details are available on ECHA's website. Link [here](#).

- Chromium VI compounds - used in surface treatments and as an anti-corrosion and reaction stabilising agent;
- 4-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)phenol, ethoxylated and 4-Nonylphenol, branched and linear, ethoxylated - used in the production of various medical devices (e.g. in vitro diagnostic) and medicinal products;
- Pitch, coal tar, high-temp. - used in the manufacturing of thermally and thermo-mechanically highly loaded carbon/carbon parts for aerospace launchers.

Consultations are underway on the restriction proposals for Microplastics; Formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers and Siloxanes D4, D5 and D6. The deadline for comments is 20 September 2019. Link [here](#). A webinar recording and presentation relating to the consultation on the microplastics restriction is available. Link [here](#).

Consultation on testing proposals had deadlines in March and April; there is a forthcoming deadline in June 2019. Link [here](#).

Consultations on applications for authorisation for chromium trioxide had a deadline of 10 April 2019; for uses of functional chrome plating with decorative character for sanitary applications (including etching and electroplating) as well as for the uses of passivation and electrolytic coating of steel.

1.8 Court judgement on lead chromates authorisation

On 7 March 2019, the General Court of the European Court of Justice issued a judgment ([T-837/16, Sweden -v- Commission](#)) annulling the European Commission's decision to grant an authorisation for certain uses of lead sulfochromate yellow and of lead chromate molybdate sulphate red.

The Court upheld Sweden's plea that the EU Commission infringed REACH by authorising the lead chromates without having duly examined and established the condition of unavailability of suitable alternatives. The judgement has implications for several other applications for authorisation. The Commission is likely to appeal against certain elements of the judgement.

An official English translation of the judgement is not yet available, but an unofficial Defra translation is available on request (please contact jack.brown@defra.gov.uk).

2. International Chemicals: Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

2.1. Minamata Convention on Mercury

The expert working groups established or re-mandated to work on technical issues between the second and third COPs are likely to report on their work within the next three months ahead of COP3, which will take place in Geneva from 25 to 29 November 2019.

At the EU level, Member States agreed on the frequency and format of reports required under Article 18 of the [EU Mercury Regulation 2017/852](#). This includes reports on imports, exports, manufacturing processes and reports from operators that are considered 'large sources' of mercury (including natural gas cleaning and chlor-alkali plants). These arrangements have been formalised in a [Commission Implementing Decision](#). Reports will be submitted through an electronic reporting tool hosted by the European Environment Agency. Member States must submit the first report by 1 January 2020.

The fourteenth Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention was held in Geneva in May 2019. Parties agreed to begin updating [guidance on the management of mercury wastes](#). The working group on these guidelines will work closely with the Minamata Convention expert working group on mercury wastes. Over the next two years there are likely to be a number of opportunities to contribute information relevant to mercury waste

sampling and testing, mercury emissions sampling, approaches to setting thresholds and on the environmentally sound management of mercury wastes.

2.2 Stockholm Convention – Persistent Organic Pollutants

The EU proposal for a recast of the POPs regulation was first published in March 2018. The main changes proposed include giving technical, scientific and administrative responsibilities to ECHA; the introduction of EC procedural changes to make amendments to the annexes; alignment with other EU regulations and Directives through the use of dynamic definitions; and an updated reporting process.

A new proposal was introduced recently to require POPs waste to be tracked in accordance with the requirements to track hazardous waste in the Waste Framework Directive. The regulation is currently going through approval and adoption processes and we expect it may come into force towards the end of the summer. If it comes into force before we leave or during an implementation period, the regulation will apply to the UK. If we leave with 'no deal' before it is in force we will need to amend our domestic regulation to comply with our commitments to the Stockholm Convention.

The Conference of the Parties convened in Geneva from 29 April – 10 May. The main results included the agreement to eliminate the use of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA related compounds with a number of time-limited exemptions and agreement on a prohibition on the use of dicofol, an organochlorine pesticide, which has similar properties to diclorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT). It was agreed that both PFOA and dicofol should be listed under Annex A of the Convention. The acceptable purposes and exemptions for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), its salts and perfluorooctane sulfonyl fluoride (PFOSF) were reviewed, with the majority of the acceptable purposes being moved to time-limited exemptions, remaining listed under Annex B of the Convention. There were no agreement on the levels of DecaBDE in waste under the Basel Convention Technical Guideline process.

2.3 Rotterdam Convention – Prior Informed Consent

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade is a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibilities in relation to importation of hazardous chemicals.

The Conference of the Parties took place in Geneva from 29 April to 10 May 2019. A proposal to add a new annex to the Rotterdam Convention that will implement institutional mechanisms and procedures for determining compliance was put forward by a group of like-minded parties¹. The proposal included the same text that has been discussed at previous COPs but which had been blocked by a small number of parties. Its purpose is

¹ Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ghana, Jordan, Mali, Nigeria, Peru, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia

to put in place a compliance mechanism to render more effective the implementation of the Convention.

After parties and observers provided their views and concerns, the President established a 'Friends of the President group' to attempt to reach consensus among key Parties, however unfortunately this was not possible. As all efforts to meet consensus had been exhausted, a vote was taken. 126 Parties participated in this vote resulting in an overwhelming majority of 120 votes in favour of the adoption of the Compliance Mechanism.

The adopted compliance mechanism will improve the effectiveness of the Convention by increasing transparency and parties' preparedness to comply with international obligations. The mechanism is facilitative in nature and will therefore benefit other parties in identifying and addressing possible gaps in compliance. As party to the Rotterdam Convention, the UK will be subject to the compliance procedures set out in the annex, but it will not have any regulatory implications for the UK and its stakeholders as we are already fully compliant with the provisions of the treaty.

In addition, the COP considered seven chemicals recommended for listing on to Annex III of the Convention and reached consensus on listing two chemicals, phorate and hexabromocyclodecane (HBCDD). The chemicals that failed to reach consensus have been deferred to the next COP.

The COP also considered the operation of the Chemical Review Committee and welcomed the Secretariat's recommendations for improving participation, openness and transparency in the Chemical Review Committee process and requested a progress report be made available at the next COP.

Furthermore, the COP welcomed the report of the intersessional working group on effectiveness of the Rotterdam convention including the set of priority actions put forward. The COP requested the Secretariat implement a number of actions to further enhance the effectiveness of the Convention such as applying proposals on new and innovative ways to improve information exchange, continuing to share collected information on measurable impacts of listing chemicals in Annex III as well as consulting with the World Customs Organisation to identify chemicals listed under the Convention that are not assigned exclusive Harmonised System custom codes.

2.4 Basel Convention

A proposal to amend the annexes of the Basel Convention to strengthen controls on the exports of plastic wastes was the subject of intense negotiations with agreement reached on the last day of the Conference. The primary change is a new entry in Annex II which means that shipments of plastic wastes, including mixtures of plastic wastes, will be subject to the Prior Informed Consent procedure unless they are covered by one of the exceptions in the entry. The exceptions will

allow businesses to ship plastic waste without notification controls provided they consist of either:

- i) uncontaminated plastic waste of mainly one polymer type, or
- ii) uncontaminated mixtures consisting of only polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP) or polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

The final decision taken also provides Parties with flexibility to impose stricter requirements on plastic waste shipments. The amendments to the annexes will become effective on 1 January 2021. The changes made to the Convention support UK policy objectives of improving the quality of waste exports as it will require UK exporters to sort plastic waste to a higher standard for it to be eligible for shipment without prior informed consent. The changes represent a significant step forward in the controls on plastic waste shipments.

A decision on plastic waste was agreed which includes a range of activities such as updating technical guidelines on the management of plastic waste and the establishment of a voluntary partnership on plastic waste. The partnership will bring together Parties to the Convention and others to improve the prevention, minimisation and management of plastic waste.

Technical guidelines for Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) were updated. The EU provided most of the proposed changes through a Small Intersessional Working Group and these were mostly accepted. Unfortunately, no agreement could be reached on the limit in waste for the newer substances, decaBDE and Short Chained Chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs). This does not affect the EU, which has set its own limits in the recast of the POPs regulation.

3. International Chemicals: Voluntary international initiatives

3.1 [Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management \(SAICM\)](#)

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a voluntary, multistakeholder, multisectoral global framework that aims to improve chemical management in all countries, including closing gaps between developed and developing countries regarding chemicals and waste management. Its current goal, which is reaffirmed in the Sustainable Development Goal 12.4, is: *“to achieve the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment.”*

It operates alongside and complements the multilateral environmental agreements for chemicals and waste i.e. the Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions. As SAICM's current mandate concludes in 2020, there is a post 2020 framework process to consider how best to take forward activity in this area.

The Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) took place in April and the outcome of negotiations is available on their website, referred to as '[Outcomes of the contact group on the Strategic Approach and the Sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020](#)'.

The next inter-sessional meeting will take place in September and preparations will be ongoing over the summer and we will continue to engage with the UKCSF as we prepare:

- The main engagement with the UKCSF is through the SAICM sub-group to the CSF. If you would like to be part of it then please let us know.
- If you know of examples of existing industry programmes to encourage the sustainable use of chemicals in specific sectors or more broadly we would welcome hearing about them.
- To support the development of targets and indicators in advance of the next intersessional meeting, we would welcome examples / suggestions regarding future targets and indicators.

Further info:

UK objectives

Our overarching objective is to support an improved enabling framework under SAICM that can mobilise increased political commitment, leadership and ambition for all actors. We support the current strategic objectives and are keen to see targets that are achievable, measurable and time bound.

We are also particularly interested in ways to strengthen the Science-Policy Interface through enhanced collaboration between scientists and decision-makers. We would like to raise the public profile of the scientific evidence in chemicals and wastes to inform the global debate. To do this we believe we need to strengthen the science: policy interface, building on the recent UN Global Chemical Outlook II which will be covered at the CSF on 5th June.

4. Defra social research for monitoring the impact of EU Exit on chemicals business

This research has now been completed by the consortium led by Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd (RPA) and the report is being reviewed in advance of publication. The research aimed to collect baseline data on the operation of a diverse range of chemicals businesses to facilitate future assessment of the impact of any post EU Exit chemicals regulatory regime. The interviews were also seen as an opportunity to collect information on the ways that businesses were planning for EU Exit, and on the challenges and opportunities that they perceived. The research was conducted in the first quarter of 2019, at a time when both government and businesses were preparing intensively for the possibility of a No Deal Exit

on 29th March. As a result, there was a focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by a No Deal scenario.

Interviews were achieved with 48 diverse chemicals businesses, representing organisations of different sizes, chemical sub-sectors, and roles within supply chains. They included manufacturers, importers, Only Representatives, formulators, distributors and downstream users of chemical substances, with the majority occupying more than one of these roles. Participants were mainly recruited via trade associations and stakeholder events.

Findings will be shared once the report is released for publication.

5. Sustainable development goals – recording successes

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by 193 member states attending the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York in 2015. The Goals are part of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

All 193 member states are expected, at least once, to review national progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and present the report to the United Nations High Level Political Forum. This process is called a Voluntary National Review and is part of Agenda 2030.

The UK is currently in the process of conducting its Voluntary National Review. It has been contributed to by Government Departments, including Defra, civil society and the private sector. The Voluntary National Review is the UK's opportunity to use evidence from across the UK, together with data on the global indicators to assess UK progress on all 17 Goals. It is a stepping stone towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

There are two SDGs in particular the Chemical Stakeholder Forum May be interested in, detailed below:

- SDG 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- SDG 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse But many others are also relevant.

6. Update from Devolved Administrations

6.1 Scotland

There continues to be a high degree of uncertainty in relation to the UK's departure from the EU. The Scottish Government's earlier agreement to UK wide legislation required for a 'no deal' scenario remains in place should that legislation be required. We anticipate

there may be further legislation required in the immediate run up to EU exit to ensure that UK law is as close as possible to EU law at the point of departure from the EU, but as yet there is no certainty on when or what the legislative requirements would be.

The Scottish Parliament's Environment Climate Change and Land Reform Committee have shown considerable interest in the regulation of Chemicals and Waste in the UK following the UK's departure from the EU. The committee have taken evidence from various UK wide stakeholders, as well as Ministers from both the Scottish and UK governments, most recently from Michael Gove, Secretary of State for the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs on 15 May 2019. In that committee appearance Mr Gove stated that "The UK Government has said that it wants to remain part of REACH and that it wants to be an associate member of the European Chemicals Agency." The Scottish Government also wants to remain part of REACH and continue current participation arrangements with the European Chemicals Agency. The full note of Environment Climate Change and Land Reform Committee can be accessed [here](#).

We are grateful to the UKCSF for its engagement to date and we intend to continue our participation in the UKCSF. We are considering the need for and benefits of establishing a similar forum in Scotland which will improve our understanding and policy making in this area. We are clear that this forum would be linked to the UKCSF, so any Scottish Group would automatically recognise the UKCSF's strategic goals, particularly [its role in facilitating dialogue across the supply chain to support](#) a circular economy. Anyone interested in participating in such a forum is encouraged to email a note of interest to jason.sharp@gov.scot and louise.cameron@gov.scot.

7. Consultation on the Future of UK Carbon Pricing (update from BEIS)

The UK Government and the Devolved Administrations (the Scottish Government; the Welsh Government; and the Northern Ireland Executive) have jointly published a consultation document on the UK's future approach to carbon pricing. This consultation seeks views on a long-term alternative to the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) once we have left the European Union (EU) and proposes the UK scheme matches the EU's in both sectors and greenhouse gases covered. The consultation opened on 2 May and will run for 10 weeks until 12 July. More information can be found [here](#).

8. UK Bioeconomy Strategy

The joint government / industry UK Bioeconomy Strategy was published in December 2018, following a collaborative development process between policy makers, industry leaders and the research community. It sets out a series of 15 actions that will help realise industry's ambition to double the size of the UK bioeconomy to £440bn GVA by 2030. Key actions set out in the strategy include:

- Government will look to help industry utilise assets to their full potential, accelerating progress so that the UK is a place where maximum value is extracted from sustainable resources at all stages of use, including minimising the creation

of waste. This action is supported by policies set out in the Resources and Waste Strategy and will benefit from innovation funding through the ISCF Wave 3 programme on Smart Sustainable Plastics Packaging.

- Government will explore the benefits of a market intelligence tool and whether that could support evidence-based decision making in resources allocation, showing the relative value that can be derived from different feedstocks such as food waste, industrial by-products and other forms of biomass. Initial scoping work will be carried out internally by BEIS, building on existing work and taking into consideration social, economic and environmental factors such as market prices, local availability, and greenhouse gas impacts.

Working groups to deliver these and other actions are being established in May / June 2019, and will include representatives from government, industry and academia.