



# UK Genetics for Livestock & Equines (UKGLE) Committee Terms of Reference

The UK Genetics for Livestock & Equines (UKGLE) Committee will provide advice to Defra and the Devolved Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on all issues relating to farm animal genetic resources (AnGR) particularly the use of breed improvement to enhance production efficiency and minimise their environmental footprint, breed conservation and sustainable use, and on compliance with the retained UK zootechnical legislation.

For these purposes, AnGR will include cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry and equines but exclude wild animals, pets, and other minor domestic species. The Committee may provide general advice on apiculture and aquaculture, seeking advice from other experts in these areas as appropriate.

The Committee's role will include assisting Defra and the Devolved Administrations to: highlight the importance of considering AnGR to inform genetic resources policy and evidence, raise awareness of AnGR, respond to new technological advances, and help to evaluate proposals on zootechnical controls.

As an Advisory Committee of Defra, the Committee will:

- Provide independent advice and operate in line with the Government's requirements for advisory committees.
- Provide advice to, and work collaboratively with, officials and key office holders such as the Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA), the Chief Veterinary Officer or the Chief Economist, and delivery partners (e.g., Defra agencies, other departments and their agencies, the Devolved Administrations, other public bodies and international technical and expert groups).
- Explore opportunities to engage and collaborate with UK industry organisations and academics.
- Contribute to developing the evidence base, analysing and interpreting evidence and providing judgements on quality and relevance.
- Working strategically, help to:

- identify future issues of concern, including evaluation of new genetic research findings,
  - provide advice and interpretation of evidence on status of UK AnGR,
  - identify possible research needs in the area of genetic resources,
  - Build links both in other Government Departments and elsewhere in business and civil society on issues relating to the business of the Committee.
- Input to policy development and evaluation by Defra and the Devolved Administrations in areas within its remit, by helping, where relevant, to assess the impacts of different policy options, including regulatory, undertake risk assessment and develop voluntary initiatives.
  - Provide advice to inform the development and implementation of domestic zootechnical legislation.
  - Provide advice on technical and research issues that Defra lead or contribute to.
  - Provide advice to inform incident response, to CSA, CVO, Defra and its delivery partners as appropriate.
  - Contribute to developing best practice advice and guidance e.g., for industry, civil society and third sector.
  - Report to Defra's CSA: Meet annually and provide an annual written summary of the work of the Committee for the Science Advisory Council's Annual Report.
  - Provide independent advice and operate in line with the Government's Principles for Scientific Advice and the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees (CoPSAC)<sup>1</sup>.
  - Stimulate discussion with senior officials where optimal value can be achieved in line with recent policy developments.

In the course of its work the Committee will aim to be visible, transparent and effective. The Committee is happy to provide copies of reports, advice, meeting agendas and formal minutes. Please contact the [UKGLE Secretariat](#).

Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at [UKGLEsecretariat@defra.gov.uk](mailto:UKGLEsecretariat@defra.gov.uk).

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<sup>1</sup> Scientific advisory committees: code of practice - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))