



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Appointment of members to the Expert Committee on Pesticides

Briefing pack for applicants

Closing Date: Monday 29 April 2024 at noon

Defra mission statement

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) group is here to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener, and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for future generations, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.

This matters because enhancing nature and green spaces enhances lives and livelihoods, contributing to a strong economy. Our wellbeing, our physical and mental health, our love of place and landscape, and our intrinsic need for beauty, awe, and wonder, are all intimately bound up with a thriving natural environment.

The Expert Committee on Pesticides

The Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) is a high-profile committee that provides independent, impartial advice to government on the science relating to pesticides, including advice on the approval and authorisation of pesticides. The Committee deals with some of the most interesting and emerging issues in the field.

The work of the independent committees that advise us helps to ensure our decisions are based on the best and most recent scientific evidence.

Role and responsibilities

The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides is an independent scientific advisory committee established to provide independent scientific advice on matters relating to the effective control of pests, including advice on approval and authorisation of pesticides. In this work, the Committee will take account of the general purposes of Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (FEPA) as set out in Section 16(1) of the Act.

These are:

- (a) the continuous development of means:
 - (i) to protect the health of people, creatures and plants;
 - (ii) to safeguard the environment; and
 - (iii) to secure safe, efficient and humane methods of controlling pests;
- (b) making information about pesticides available to the public.

The Committee provides this advice to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Scottish Ministers, the Welsh Ministers and the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

Role specification

We are looking for experts to fill two expert roles. Applicants to the ECP must be able to demonstrate the following:

Required general skills

- experience and evidence of effective contribution to multi-disciplinary groups advising on complex scientific or technical questions.
- strong analytical and judgement skills, with independent thinking and being open to challenge.
- well-developed interpersonal and communication skills with a collaborative style and an ability to engage and communicate with non-expert audiences; excellent command of written and spoken English.

Required expert skills

We are recruiting two people with specific expertise; one in ecotoxicology and the other in toxicology, as outlined below.

Candidates must demonstrate a high-level of expertise in one or more of these areas, evidenced by a strong record of achievement at a national or international level, with strong networks in the field. For scientific roles this can be evidenced by publication in high profile peer-reviewed journals and/or presentation at international meetings.

We have noted specific sub-specialities within each area of expertise that are desirable, but not essential. The ECP requires a wide range of knowledge and experience, and we are interested in any relevant expertise within these broader specialisms.

- Ecotoxicology
 - Vertebrate ecotoxicology
 - Experience of 'next-generation' risk assessments
- Toxicology
 - Computational toxicology
 - In-vitro toxicology
 - Regulatory toxicology studies in animals.

We are committed to the principles of public appointments based on merit and equal opportunities, with independent assessment, openness, and transparency of process. We are committed to promoting and encouraging equality, diversity, and inclusion amongst our scientific committees. We strongly encourage candidates from all backgrounds to apply.

Those interested may request an application pack through the [Committee Recruitment Inbox](#), we also welcome any questions you may have.

Benefits of membership

Members contribute to some of the most high-profile issues facing the regulatory system and have a meaningful impact on important policy issues. Existing and previous members have raised the following benefits:

- Opportunity to gain insight into the evidence needs and regulatory process for the plant protection products.
- Working across a multi-disciplinary team and meeting with leading experts across academia and industry with an interest in the field.
- The ability to develop a broader understanding of the policy issues outside your own specialism.

“ECP membership has given me the opportunity to apply my scientific expertise outside my core knowledge. Working with other leading-edge scientists has grown my network and furthered my personal development.”

ECP Member

Ways of working

The ECP use Microsoft Teams and Huddle as a platform to share documents and information and to hold virtual meetings. Members will be required to access and use Microsoft Teams and Huddle effectively as part of their roles, so will need access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a webcam.

Time Commitment

The ECP hold up to six two-day meetings a year, usually virtually, with occasional travel to York, and members provide additional input between meetings.

The Government may also request advice from the committee on an *ad hoc* basis or in emergencies.

The overall time commitment will depend on the extent of members' participation in the groups' meetings but a minimum commitment is expected to be around 14 days a year.

For all posts, meetings are held for the majority virtually, where an in-person meeting is held, a virtual (hybrid) option will be available if required.

Public Service Values

Successful applicants will be expected to uphold public service values in fulfilling the role of independent adviser to UK Government. Candidates invited for interview will be asked about any issues in their personal or professional history that could draw into question their ability to fulfil this role, and it is important that candidates bring any such issues to the attention of the panel.

Fees and expenses

These positions are not salaried, but members may claim fees and reasonable travel and other expenses, for work carried out for the Committees.

The current members fees for ECP are:

£300 per day's work on committee or expert group business plus £150 preparation fee.

Eligibility

Members cannot 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 this body.

We welcome applications from existing members of government Scientific Advisory Committees; however, applicants must list relevant current appointments in their application to identify any cross-membership and assess any potential conflicts of interest.

Applicants need not be primarily based within the UK. We encourage any interested applicants to attend the [Q&A webinar](#) or contact the recruitment team at [Committee recruitment team](#).

How to apply

Please reach out to the [Committee recruitment team](#) to receive application pack. If you require the forms in an alternative format, please get in touch with the [Committee recruitment team](#)

Each applicant must complete and provide:

- Application form
- CV and/or list of publications
- Diversity questionnaire
- Political Monitoring questionnaire

A webinar will be held on **17 April** to provide more detail on the work of each committee and the roles we are seeking to fill. Those interested are encouraged to [register here](#) for an invitation and further details.

Important

Submission closes on midday Monday 29 April 2024.

Please do not print the forms, they must be completed digitally and returned to us via email. Please also avoid saving the forms in PDF format wherever possible.

Please email completed application forms to [the Committee recruitment team](#).

Expected timeline for appointments

Applicants will be informed of the outcome of sifting by the w/c 13th May.

Interviews for shortlisted applicants will take place on the following dates:

- Toxicology – 28th May
- Eco-toxicology – 29th and 30th of May

Appointments will be confirmed in June 2024

Induction will take place in Late July 2024.

Successful applicants will be invited to join the meeting scheduled ECP meeting on the 23rd of July 2024.

Location for interviews

Virtual via MS Teams.

Annex – Current membership of the ECP

The full biographies for all ECP members can be viewed at [UK Expert Committee on Pesticides \(ECP\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-expert-committee-on-pesticides)

- Mr James Clarke (Chair) - is Research Director at ADAS. He specialises in sustainable crop production (including soil health and management, IPM (Integrated Pest Management), crop nutrition and performance) and the impacts of arable farming on the environment.
- Professor Michael Eddleston (Deputy Chair) - is a clinical toxicologist working for the University of Edinburgh, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, and UK's National Poisons Information Service (NPIS).
- Professor James Coulson - is a Professor in Clinical Pharmacology, Therapeutics & Toxicology at Cardiff University and an honorary consultant physician at Cardiff & Vale University Health Board.
- Dr James Garratt - is a Principal Consultant at Enviresearch, part of the RSK group. He is a scientist with a special interest and passion for the assessment of the risks of chemicals to the environment.
- Mr Martin Glynn - is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Foresters and a Chartered Environmentalist. Martin is a member of the England Forest and Wood-based Industry Leadership Group, he is a Trustee of the Forest Industries Education Fund and was formerly a Non-Executive Director of the National Forest Company.
- Dr Caroline Harris - is a Principal scientist at Exponent International. She previously worked as an analytical chemist for MAFF and as a regulator (latterly Head of Human Health) at the Chemicals Regulations Directorate. She continues to be involved with MRLs, import tolerances and pesticide residues in international trade.
- Dr Ioanna Katsiadaki - is a Principal Scientific Officer and the Science Leader for The Cefas Weymouth Laboratory. She is also an honorary associated professor at the University of Exeter. Dr Katsiadaki has been conducting active research and providing advice related to the effects of contaminants on aquatic organisms to government departments as well as international organisations like OECD, ECHA and SETAC for over 25 years.
- Dr Ruth Mann - is Head of Integrated Crop Technologies at Agrii. Her broad research background is integrated disease management in agricultural and horticultural crops, sports surfaces and amenity areas.
- Dr Martin Rose- has worked for over 30 years as a government scientist with Fera (previously CSL, Defra, MAFF) with a focus on the application of analytical chemistry to studies on dietary exposure, toxicology, environmental pathways, environmental monitoring, food authenticity, ecotoxicology, risk assessment and contingency responses for

environmental contaminants in food. He is a former head of UK National Reference Laboratory for chemical contaminants in food.

- Dr Anna Rowbotham- is a senior managing scientist with Exponent with nearly 30 years of experience in toxicology and human health risk assessment. Anna has worked a number of senior roles across the regulatory sector with experience in the plant protection products, biocides and REACH regulatory regimes.
- Mr Patrick Stephenson - heads up an agronomy partnership acting as a senior consultant to 100 farm clients covering 18,000 ha. He also serves as a Regional Agronomist with the National Institute of Agricultural Botany assisting with farm research and knowledge transfer.
- Professor David Spurgeon - is an experienced ecotoxicological researcher who has worked on assessing the effects of anthropogenic stressors and pollution on soil communities for over 25 years.
- Professor Matthew Wright - is Professor of Toxicology at Newcastle University. His research interests and expertise are around xenobiotic metabolism, liver injury and liver responses to chronic injury.
- Professor Mick Whelan - is an environmental scientist at the University of Leicester specialising in the fate of organic chemicals, such as pesticides and pharmaceutical ingredients, and the transfer of nitrogen and phosphorus from agricultural land to surface waters.

Biopesticide Cloud members

- Professor Tariq Butt - is a professor at Swansea University and leads the Biocontrol and Natural Products (BANP) group at Swansea University. The group focuses on developing environmentally friendly products and strategies for the management of invertebrate pests of socio-economic importance.
- Dr Irene Cano Cejas - is an expert Immunologist and Virologist working as an at The Cefas Weymouth Laboratory on aquatic animal health and food security. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Irene joined the antiviral task force at UKHSA for compound testing against VoC of SARS-CoV-2 collaborating with NHS and international pharmaceuticals.
- Dr Dave Chandler - is an Associate Professor (Reader) at the School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick. He is based at the Warwick Crop Centre, Wellesbourne. He is an entomologist and insect pathologist.
- Dr Roma Gwynn - is an independent specialist with nearly 40 years of experience in crop protection. She has significant experience of working with industry and regulators globally to facilitate the development and registration of new and novel biotechnologies.

- Dr Maureen Wakefield - is the lead scientist for applied entomology at Fera Science Ltd, with over 35 years of experience in the field. Her interests include chemical ecology, the use of biological control agents such as parasitoids, predators and entomopathogenic fungi.