

Questionnaire

Amendments to the Poisons Act 1972 – Consultation Questionnaire (2026)

Section A: Overall approach and proportionality

Q1. Overall, which of the following options best reflects your preferred approach to amending the Poisons Act 1972? Please select one:

- ☐ **Option 0:** Make no changes to the current regulatory framework
- ☐ **Option 1:** Comprehensive package of reforms
- ☐ **Option 2:** Introduce comprehensive package of reforms, plus licence fee changes, alignment of record-keeping requirements and amend definition of regulated poison

Q2. If you selected option 1 or 2, please indicate to what extent you agree with the measure.

Proposal	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Add ricin contained in castor beans to the list of regulated poisons	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add abrin contained in rosary peas to the list of regulated poisons	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change sodium nitrite from a reportable to a regulated poison at the proposed concentration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add oxalic acid dihydrate to the	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

list of regulated poisons at the proposed concentration					
Change sodium nitrate from a reportable to a regulated explosives precursor at the proposed concentration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change potassium nitrate from a reportable to a regulated explosives precursor at the proposed concentration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change in concentration threshold of potassium chlorate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change in concentration threshold of potassium perchlorate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change in concentration threshold of sodium chlorate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change in concentration threshold of sodium perchlorate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add calcium nitrate tetrahydrate to the list of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

reportable explosives precursors					
Increase the explosives precursors and poisons licence fee as proposed	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Align record- keeping requirements for sales of regulated poisons with those for regulated explosives precursors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q3a. What do you consider to be the single most important benefit arising from these proposals? Please select one:

- ☐ Improved public safety through reduced access to high-risk substances
- ☐ Improved national security through strengthened safeguards against misuse
- ☐ Increase in business compliance
- ☐ Improved controls on highly toxic plant-derived substances
- ☐ Reduced access to substances that may be used to cause serious harm to individuals
- ☐ Greater consistency across the explosives precursors and poisons regime
- ☐ Increased awareness and vigilance amongst producers, suppliers and license holders
- ☐ More proportionate regulation of substances of concern
- ☐ No significant benefits
- ☐ Other (please specify - maximum 250 words)
- ☐ Don't know

Q3b. What do you consider to be the single most important concern arising from these proposals? Please select one:

- ☐ Increased regulatory burden for businesses
- ☐ Increased costs for businesses
- ☐ Reduced availability of substances for legitimate users
- ☐ Increased administrative requirements for suppliers
- ☐ Increased costs for licence applicants and holders
- ☐ Potential impacts on specialist hobbies or activities
- ☐ Risk of displacement to alternative substances
- ☐ No significant concerns
- ☐ Other (please specify - maximum 250 words)
- ☐ Don't know

Section B: Changes to substance classification

Q4. To what extent would proposed changes to the classification of the following substances impact you or your organisation? Please select one response for each proposal:

	Very negative impact	Somewhat negative impact	Neither positive nor negative impact	Somewhat positive impact	Very positive impact	Don't know
Add ricin contained in castor beans to the list of regulated poisons	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add abrin contained in rosary peas to the list of	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

regulated poisons						
Change sodium nitrite from a reportable to a regulated poison at the proposed concentration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add oxalic acid dihydrate to the list of regulated poisons at the proposed concentration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change sodium nitrate from a reportable to a regulated explosives precursor at the proposed concentration	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change potassium nitrate from a reportable to a regulated explosives precursor	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change in concentration threshold of potassium chlorate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change in concentration threshold of potassium perchlorate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Change in concentration threshold of sodium chlorate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Change in concentration threshold of sodium perchlorate	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Add calcium nitrate tetrahydrate to the list of reportable explosives precursors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q4a. Are there any public safety or safeguarding considerations which you believe Government should take into account when considering these proposals? (maximum 500 words)

- ☐ Yes (maximum 500 words)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q4b. Do you have any further evidence relating to public safety, safeguarding, accessibility, availability, or the potential misuse of substances covered by this consultation which has not been captured elsewhere? (maximum 500 words)

- ☐ Yes (maximum 500 words)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q5. Please indicate how you or your organisation would be affected by the proposed changes (select all that apply):

- ☐ Licensing
- ☐ Sourcing
- ☐ Record-keeping
- ☐ Financial loss
- ☐ Availability of substances
- ☐ Other (please specify):
- ☐ None of the above/Not applicable
- ☐ Don't know

Q6. Do you foresee any practical, technical or regulatory compliance issues with expressing thresholds for Potassium Nitrate and Sodium Nitrate as both a weight-by-weight concentration and an equivalent nitrogen concentration? (*maximum 250 words*)

Q7. Do you manufacture, distribute, sell or use products containing mixtures of nitrate salts - for example Potassium Nitrate, Sodium Nitrate or Calcium Nitrate within the same formulation? If so, please provide details of their composition, use, marketing and any practical implications the proposed regulatory approach would have for such products. (*maximum 250 words*)

Q8. Would you be able to continue your commercial activity if access to certain substances were restricted to licensed users only?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q9. If no, please explain why (*maximum 250 words*)

Q10. If you are responsible for a business that sells castor beans, rosary peas, sodium nitrite and/or oxalic acid dihydrate: What is the estimated annual revenue you make from selling these substances? Please select one:

- ☐ Less than £10,000
- ☐ £10,000 to £49,999
- ☐ £50,000 to £99,999
- ☐ £100,000 to £249,999
- ☐ £250,000 to £499,999
- ☐ £500,000 to £999,999
- ☐ £1 million to £4.99 million
- ☐ £5 million or more
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q11. If you are responsible for a business that sells sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, potassium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, sodium chlorate, sodium perchlorate and/or calcium nitrate tetrahydrate: What is the estimated annual revenue you make from selling these substances? Please select one:

- ☐ Less than £10,000
- ☐ £10,000 to £49,999
- ☐ £50,000 to £99,999
- ☐ £100,000 to £249,999
- ☐ £250,000 to £499,999
- ☐ £500,000 to £999,999
- ☐ £1 million to £4.99 million
- ☐ £5 million or more
- ☐ Don't know

☐ Not applicable

Q12. If you are responsible for a business that sells castor beans, rosary peas, sodium nitrite and/or oxalic acid dihydrate: Would you have to conduct additional internal training for your employees if these substances were reclassified under the Poisons Act?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

☐ Not applicable

Q13. If yes, how many hours of training do you estimate each of your employees would have to receive to respond to this change? Please select one:

☐ Less than 1 hour

☐ 1 to 2 hours

☐ More than 2 hours and up to 4 hours

☐ More than 4 hours and up to 8 hours

☐ More than 8 hours and up to 16 hours

☐ More than 16 hours

☐ Don't know

☐ Not applicable

Q14. If you are responsible for a business that sells sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, potassium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, sodium chlorate, sodium perchlorate and/or calcium nitrate tetrahydrate: Would you have to conduct additional internal training for your employees if these substances were reclassified under the Poisons Act?

☐ Yes

☐ No

- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q15. If yes, how many hours of training do you estimate each of your employees would have to receive to respond to this change? Please select one:

- ☐ Less than 1 hour
- ☐ 1 to 2 hours
- ☐ More than 2 hours and up to 4 hours
- ☐ More than 4 hours and up to 8 hours
- ☐ More than 8 hours and up to 16 hours
- ☐ More than 16 hours
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q16. If you are responsible for a business that sells castor beans, rosary peas, sodium nitrite and/or oxalic acid dihydrate: Would you need any additional support from the Home Office if these substances were reclassified under the Poisons Act?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q17. If yes, please describe the nature of the support you would need from the Home Office: (maximum 250 words)

Q18. If you are responsible for a business that sells sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, potassium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, sodium chlorate, sodium perchlorate and/or calcium nitrate tetrahydrate: Would you need any additional

support from the Home Office if these substances were reclassified under the Poisons Act?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q19. If yes, please describe the nature of the support you would need from the Home Office: (maximum 250 words)

Q20. If you are responsible for a business that sells castor beans, rosary peas, sodium nitrite and/or oxalic acid dihydrate: Are there close substitutes that you would sell as an alternative to these items?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q21. If yes, what items would you sell in place of castor beans, rosary peas, sodium nitrite and/or oxalic acid dihydrate? (maximum 250 words)

Q22. If yes to Q20., how close are the substitutes you identified in terms of price?

- ☐ Very close
- ☐ Somewhat close
- ☐ Not close
- ☐ Don't know

☐ N/A

Q23. If yes to Q20., would substitutes typically be?

☐ More expensive

☐ Less expensive

☐ Not close

☐ Don't know

☐ N/A

Q24. If you are responsible for a business that sells sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, potassium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, sodium chlorate, sodium perchlorate and/or calcium nitrate tetrahydrate: Are there close substitutes that you would sell as an alternative to these items?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

☐ Not applicable

Q25. If yes, what items would you sell in place of sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, potassium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, sodium chlorate, sodium perchlorate and/or calcium nitrate tetrahydrate? (*maximum 250 words*)

Q26. If yes to Q24., how close are the substitutes you identified in terms of price?

☐ Very close

☐ Somewhat close

☐ Not close

☐ Don't know

☐ N/A

Q27. If yes to Q24., would substitutes typically be?

☐ More expensive

☐ Less expensive

☐ Not close

☐ Don't know

☐ N/A

Q28. If you are an individual (not responsible for a business) that buys: castor beans, rosary peas, sodium nitrite and/or oxalic acid dihydrate: Are there close substitutes that you could buy as an alternative to these substances?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Don't know

☐ Not applicable

Q29. If yes, what items would you buy in place of castor beans, rosary peas, sodium nitrite and/or oxalic acid dihydrate? (*maximum 250 words*)

Q30. If yes to Q28., how close are the substitutes you identified in terms of price?

☐ Very close

☐ Somewhat close

☐ Not close

☐ Don't know

☐ N/A

Q31. If yes to Q28, would substitutes typically be?

- ☐ More expensive
- ☐ Less expensive
- ☐ Not close
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ N/A

Q32. If you are an individual (not responsible for a business) that buys: sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, potassium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, sodium chlorate, sodium perchlorate and/or calcium nitrate tetrahydrate: Are there close substitutes that you could buy as an alternative to these substances?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q33. If yes, what items would you buy in place of sodium nitrate, potassium nitrate, potassium chlorate, potassium perchlorate, sodium chlorate, sodium perchlorate and/or calcium nitrate tetrahydrate? (*maximum 250 words*)

Q34. If yes to Q32., how close are the substitutes you identified in terms of price?

- ☐ Very close
- ☐ Somewhat close
- ☐ Not close
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ N/A

Q35. If yes to Q32, would substitutes typically be?

- ☐ More expensive
- ☐ Less expensive
- ☐ Not close
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ N/A

Section C: Impact on members of the public and licence-holders

Q36. Would any of the proposals require you to take any of the following actions?

Please select all that apply:

- ☐ Apply for a licence
- ☐ Renew an existing licence
- ☐ Vary an existing licence
- ☐ Change sourcing of substances or products
- ☐ Change storage or handling arrangements
- ☐ Change record-keeping or compliance processes
- ☐ No changes required
- ☐ Other (please specify):
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q37. Which proposal or proposals would require you to take those actions? Please select all that apply:

- ☐ Add ricin contained in castor beans to the list of regulated poisons
- ☐ Add abrin contained in rosary peas to the list of regulated poisons

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- ☐ Change sodium nitrite from a reportable to a regulated poison
- ☐ Add oxalic acid dihydrate to the list of regulated poisons at the proposed concentration
- ☐ Change sodium nitrate from a reportable to a regulated explosives precursor
- ☐ Change potassium nitrate from a reportable to a regulated explosives precursor
- ☐ Change in concentration threshold of potassium chlorate
- ☐ Change in concentration threshold of potassium perchlorate
- ☐ Change in concentration threshold of sodium chlorate
- ☐ Change in concentration threshold of sodium perchlorate
- ☐ Add calcium nitrate tetrahydrate to the list of reportable explosives precursors
- ☐ Increase the explosives precursors and poisons licence fee as proposed
- ☐ Align record-keeping requirements for sales of regulated poisons with those for regulated explosives precursors
- ☐ Other (please specify):
- ☐ Don't know

Section D: Suppliers, manufacturers, and online marketplaces

Q38. Do you supply substances that would be affected by the proposed changes (if no, please skip to section E)?

- ☐ Yes – to members of the public
- ☐ Yes – to professional or business users
- ☐ Yes – to both
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

Q39. Which substance or substances do you supply that would be affected by the proposed changes? Please select all that apply:

- ☐ Ricin contained in castor beans
- ☐ Abrin contained in rosary peas
- ☐ Sodium nitrite
- ☐ Oxalic acid dihydrate
- ☐ Sodium nitrate
- ☐ Potassium nitrate
- ☐ Potassium chlorate
- ☐ Potassium perchlorate
- ☐ Sodium chlorate
- ☐ Sodium perchlorate
- ☐ Calcium nitrate tetrahydrate
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Q40. Would the proposals require you to make any of the following changes? (Select all that apply):

- ☐ Reformulate products
- ☐ Change product labelling
- ☐ Change product packaging
- ☐ Change customer verification processes
- ☐ Withdraw products
- ☐ No changes required
- ☐ Other (please specify):
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q41. If product reformulation is required, how easy or difficult do you expect this to be?

- ☐ Very easy
- ☐ Easy
- ☐ Neither easy nor difficult
- ☐ Difficult
- ☐ Very difficult
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q42. If product withdrawal is required, how easy or difficult do you expect this to be?

- ☐ Very easy
- ☐ Easy
- ☐ Neither easy nor difficult
- ☐ Difficult
- ☐ Very difficult
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q43. What level of additional costs or loss of revenue per year (if any) do you expect to incur as a result of the proposed changes?

- ☐ No additional costs
- ☐ Less than £5,000
- ☐ £5,000 – £25,000
- ☐ £25,000 – £50,000

- ☐ £50,000 – £100,000
- ☐ More than £100,000
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q44. To what extent could your organisation absorb these costs without major disruptions to existing processes or operations?

- ☐ Fully
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ Don't know

Q45. Which of the following are the main drivers of any additional costs you expect to incur? Please select all that apply:

- ☐ One-off implementation costs
- ☐ Ongoing compliance or administrative costs
- ☐ Product reformulation
- ☐ Product withdrawal
- ☐ Packaging or labelling changes
- ☐ Customer verification or record-keeping changes
- ☐ Staff training
- ☐ IT or systems changes
- ☐ Supply chain changes
- ☐ Other (please specify):

Section E: Professional user verification and record-keeping

Q46. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposal to align record-keeping requirements for sales to professional and business users of regulated poisons with those for regulated explosives precursors?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Don't know

Q47. Does your organisation already collect and retain this information?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Partially
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

Q48. What impact, if any, do you think aligning record-keeping requirements would have on your organisation's operations?

- ☐ Very negative impact
- ☐ Somewhat negative impact
- ☐ Neither negative nor positive impact
- ☐ Somewhat positive impact
- ☐ Very positive impact.
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q49. If you are answering this on behalf of a business, does your business sell *both* regulated poisons and regulated explosives precursors to other businesses?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q50. If you are responsible for a business, would the alignment of business record-keeping requirements save your business any time?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q51. If yes, how many hours do you estimate the record-keeping reform would save your business annually? Please select one:

- ☐ Less than 1 hour
- ☐ 1 to 5 hours
- ☐ More than 5 hours and up to 10 hours
- ☐ More than 10 hours and up to 25 hours
- ☐ More than 25 hours and up to 50 hours
- ☐ More than 50 hours
- ☐ No time saving
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Section F: Licence fee changes

Q52. To what extent do you consider increases to licence fees in line with inflation and administrative costs to be reasonable?

- ☐ Very reasonable
- ☐ Somewhat reasonable
- ☐ Neither reasonable nor unreasonable
- ☐ Somewhat unreasonable
- ☐ Very unreasonable
- ☐ Don't know

Q53. What impact, if any, would the proposed fee changes have on you?

- ☐ Very negative impact
- ☐ Somewhat negative impact
- ☐ Neither positive nor negative impact
- ☐ Somewhat positive impact
- ☐ Very positive impact
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q54. Would an increase in licence fees affect your likelihood of applying for or renewing a licence?

- ☐ Yes - much less likely
- ☐ Yes - somewhat less likely
- ☐ No change
- ☐ Don't know

Q55. Please explain the reasons for your answer (maximum 250 words):

Section G: Implementation and transition

Q56. What lead-in time would you reasonably need to comply with the proposed changes?

- ☐ 6 months or less
- ☐ 6-12 months
- ☐ Longer than 12 months
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Q57. What factors drive your required lead-in time?

- ☐ Supply chain changes
- ☐ Product redesign
- ☐ Staff training
- ☐ Systems / IT changes
- ☐ Regulatory approvals
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Not applicable

Q58. Please explain the reasons for your answer (maximum 250 words):

Section H: Business information

Q59. If you are responsible for a business that will be affected by the measures being consulted on, please state the five digit SIC code that best describe the main

activity of your business. Information on five digit SIC codes can be found here: <https://resources.companieshouse.gov.uk/sic/>. (maximum five characters):

Q60. If you are responsible for a business that will be affected by the measures being consulted on, how many employees does your business have? Please select one:

- ☐ 0-9 employees
- ☐ 10-49 employees
- ☐ 50-249 employees
- ☐ 250+ employees
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Section I: Consultation Options Assessment

Q61. Do you have any specific comments or views on the information contained in the accompanying Consultation Options Assessment that you have not already provided within this questionnaire? (maximum 500 words)

- ☐ Yes (maximum 500 words)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Not applicable

Thank you for participating in this consultation.

About you

Please use this section to tell us about yourself

Full name	
Job title or capacity in which you are responding to this consultation exercise (for example, member of the public)	☐ Member of public ☐ Representative of a group (see below) ☐ Hobbyist ☐ Retailer ☐ Manufacturer ☐ Online marketplace ☐ Trade association ☐ Other
Date	
Company name/organisation (if applicable)	
Address	
Postcode	
If you would like us to acknowledge receipt of your response, please tick this box	☐ (please tick box)
Address to which the acknowledgement should be sent, if different from above	

If you are a representative of a group, please tell us the name of the group and give a summary of the people or organisations that you represent.



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