

## **Written Ministerial Statement**

**Minister of State for Industry and the Regions: The Rt Hon Margaret Hodge MP**

**20 July 2006**

### **CONSULTATION ON THE UK'S NATIONAL STRATEGIC REFERENCE FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS PROGRAMMES**

On 28 February 2006, the Department of Trade and Industry published a consultation document on a draft National Strategic Reference Framework for future EU Structural Funds programmes.

The consultation document invited stakeholders to comment on three main issues: the methodology for allocating future Competitiveness funding between the UK's regions; the administrative arrangements for delivering future programmes; and the strategy for future spending set out in the draft National Framework.

The Department of Trade and Industry is currently analysing the 320 responses to the consultation, received from stakeholders across the UK. The Government intends to publish a full response to the consultation as soon as possible after the summer recess.