



ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002

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AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMISSION



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BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

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INTRODUCTION

- 1 The Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission (AEBC) was launched by the Government in June 2000 with a remit to provide independent strategic advice on developments in biotechnology and their implications for agriculture and the environment.
- 2 This report covers the year to October 2002. It sets out how we have approached our work, and our key achievements over the year.
- 3 Our origin was a review in 1999 by the Cabinet Office and the Office of Science and Technology of the Advisory and Regulatory Framework for Biotechnology. This review concluded that a broader approach was needed for strategic issues, and the AEBC forms part of the new strategic framework.
- 4 The AEBC was set up to be an experimental and innovative advisory body. The Government appointed our twenty members from a diverse range of backgrounds, with a wide range of skills and expertise. We are charged with working in an open and transparent way, to look at the broad picture, and to take ethical and social issues into account as well as the science. In the highly sensitive and complex area of biotechnology, we aim to assist the process of constructive public debate involving all interests and encourage respect for the spectrum of views. We develop our advice to Ministers by gathering and analysing evidence and debating the issues thoroughly and robustly. We report jointly to Margaret Beckett, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and to Patricia Hewitt, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. We also report to the following Ministers in the devolved administrations: Ross Finnie, Scottish Executive Minister for Environment and Rural Development, Mike German, Welsh Assembly Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad and Dermott Nesbitt, Minister of the Environment, Northern Ireland.

SUMMARY

- 5 Our second year has seen the Government respond positively both to our report, *Crops on Trial*, and to our subsequent advice on a public debate about the possible commercialisation of GM crops. The Chair and some Members of the AEBC have become involved in overseeing the running of the debate and are on the debate steering board. Our second major report, *Animals and Biotechnology*, was published on 3 September 2002. We commend the innovative approach taken by the working group to involving the public and engaging with stakeholders. We also consulted on a new Work Plan. This was informed by a Horizon Scanning Study which was made available alongside the draft Work Plan. Work on Liability and Consumer Choice has proceeded.

HOW WE HAVE GONE ABOUT OUR WORK

- 6 The AEBC is committed to working openly and transparently. We have held full Commission meetings in a number of locations around the United Kingdom (see Annex B). We use our website (www.aebc.gov.uk) and a mixture of approaches to promote our meetings locally and

nationally. The notes of Commission meetings, both open and deliberative (closed) meetings, are posted on our website. We publish our draft reports, as well as the final versions, on our website. We have a long list of stakeholders with whom we keep in touch.

- 7 We have been exploring a variety of innovative approaches to engagement with the public and we have open dialogues with a wide range of interested groups and organisations. The Commission tries to be quite experimental in selecting the audiences it targets and the way it chooses to engage with them.
- 8 We always welcome suggestions or comments about our work and priorities, and about the best ways to approach our work. We actively encourage feedback from everyone who attends our open meetings and we have evaluated the questionnaires completed by observers at our meetings.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE THIS YEAR

- 9 As a Commission, we have:

Provided advice to Government on a public debate about the possible commercialisation of GM

- 10 In its response to *Crops on Trial*, Government asked the AEBC to provide advice, by the end of April 2002, on how and when to promote an effective public debate on the possible commercial growing of the FSE crops, who should be involved, and how to make the best use of the results of such a debate.
- 11 The AEBC submitted its advice to Government on 26 April 2002. The advice set out the essential elements of a debate. We sought to design a programme of events that was imaginative but also practicable and that offered value for money. The advice distinguished between a core programme whose constituent parts we think are indispensable, and additional elements which could maximise its effectiveness but which would inevitably make the programme more expensive. We also set out options about how the information gained from the debate might be used. Government responded on 26 July stating that it wanted a genuinely open and balanced discussion on GM with a report on the outcomes by June 2003. The response set out the three main components to the overall programme of dialogue. These are:
 - a public debate;
 - a review of the scientific issues relating to GM;
 - a study into the overall costs and benefits of GM crops which will be carried out by the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit.
- 12 Our recommendation for a steering board, independent from Government, to oversee the debate was accepted. The AEBC Chair was invited to head the board and to appoint other members. The Chair has undertaken to report on progress on the debate to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and to Ministers in the devolved administrations.

- 13 The AEBC sought clarification and reassurance from Government about a number of issues before agreeing to participate in overseeing the debate. The Chair and several AEBC Members with some others have now formed the public debate steering board to take forward this work. The very novelty of the public debate demands intense discussion between and creative thinking by the parties involved. This has proved to be the case so far and is likely to continue to remain a feature of the debate. The steering board members are determined to develop an innovative and effective programme of public dialogue which will provide intelligent information to Government about public attitudes to the possible commercialisation of GM crops.

Published our second major report

- 14 Our second major report, *Animals and Biotechnology*, was published on 3 September 2002. It received widespread coverage on radio, television and press and was welcomed by Ministers who will respond formally to its recommendations.
- 15 Although based on work by the working group, *Animals and Biotechnology* is a report of the full Commission, whose members have agreed the content including the recommendations to Government. The report can be viewed on our website (www.aebc.gov.uk)
- 16 The working group adopted innovative ways of working and made sure the report's recommendations were informed by public attitudes. A reference group recruited from the general public by MORI helped ensure that the working group's work was relevant to public concerns. In addition, a qualitative research study was commissioned on *Contemporary UK Public Attitudes and Sensibilities towards Animals* to help the group understand the subtleties behind people's complex attitudes towards animals. This report, by Dr Phil Macnaghten, followed on from a literature review undertaken for the AEBC by Professor Glynis Breakwell on *Research in the UK on public attitudes to biotechnology with animals*. Reports of all three exercises can be viewed on our website.
- 17 The working group tested its emerging conclusions as it went along with stakeholders and its public reference group. A stakeholder seminar held in November 2001 was well attended. The seminar and subsequent discussions with stakeholders provided valuable evidence and influenced the working group's thinking. We are also very grateful to members of the reference group and would commend the use of a similar reference group to others.

Consulted people about our second Work Plan and published it

- 18 A second Work Plan was published for consultation in April 2002. The proposals in the plan drew on the work of the Commission's Horizon Scanning working group. Detailed and helpful responses were received to the consultation proposals. The views of respondents emphasised the importance of a study of environmental footprints, and of trans-boundary regulation, with a study of research agendas being given on balance slightly lower priority. The Work Plan was then amended by the AEBC in the light of responses to consultation. It has now been finalised and sent to Ministers. The Commission's priorities and timing for studies might need to be revised in the light of further work on the public debate.

Sought to involve the public and interested groups in our work

19. All but one of our meetings this year have been held in public. We continue to explore a variety of ways to help us fulfil our remit to engage the public. We expect to acquire greater knowledge and experience of such methods in the course of our forthcoming public debate work.

THE SUBJECTS WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT

- 20 The Commission takes most of its work forward in working groups which prepare draft reports, for the full Commission to consider, on major areas of work; or investigate the viability of further areas that could be developed into full studies.
- 21 The working groups over the past year have been considering:
- Animals and Biotechnology;
 - Public Attitudes (the GM debate);
 - Liability;
 - Horizon Scanning for potential developments in agricultural biotechnology; and
 - Consumer Choice.
- 22 In addition, the AEBC is represented on the research review group for a baseline study commissioned by DEFRA on impacts of crop and livestock production systems. It contributed to the development of the research proposal and is pleased that the study, recommended in Crops on Trial is going ahead.
- 23 Details of the groups' membership and terms of reference are at Annex D.

WHAT THE COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUPS HAVE BEEN DOING

- 24 In addition to the work on taking forward advice on the public debate and the Animals and Biotechnology report, other work has included the following.

Horizon scanning for potential developments in agricultural biotechnology

- 25 The horizon scanning working group consulted on possible scenarios for the uptake of GM in agriculture. A study was undertaken to help inform the Commission in deciding its future work programme and to stimulate public debate on the issues raised by biotechnology for agriculture and the environment. As noted above, this was made available alongside the draft Work Plan in April 2002.

Liability

- 26 The liability working group continued its work this year with a view to the AEBC publishing a report during 2003. A range of experts have given evidence. The group travelled to Brussels to meet experts at the European Commission and industry representatives based there.
- 27 The group is identifying and considering the questions that need to be addressed in any debate on liability (and how they might be debated): surveying and monitoring existing laws and proposals for reform; and reporting to the AEBC. The group has started a consultation exercise on possible scenarios for liability issues.

Consumer Choice

- 28 This group has approached consumer choice issues from two angles: what consumers want now and may want in the future; and how this could be delivered in practical terms by producers.
- 29 The group has been considering what factors affect consumers' purchasing decisions, the regulatory provisions that will impact on consumer choice, and, if GM crops are commercialised, how they might co-exist with other forms of agriculture.
30. The group has started an examination of the practical and economic implications of different models of co-existence for producers (seed producers, the agricultural biotechnology industry, on the farm, elsewhere in the supply chain) and for consumers. It has been drawing on data from abroad where these crops have already been commercialised; and other published data about gene flow and mixing in the supply chain; and on modelling of different co-existence scenarios for Europe and the UK. It has also been taking into account evidence about the practical limits of detecting GM material in non-GM produce.
- 31 A technical workshop hosted by the Central Science Laboratories in York was held on 19 September.
- 32 The group aims to draw up strategic recommendations for Government about co-existence and consumer choice. It plans to consult a range of stakeholders on its preliminary conclusions. In order to assess how acceptable to the public its recommendations are likely to be, the group also intends to consult some consumers on its proposals.

WORKING WITH OTHER BODIES

- 33 Our Chair and Deputy Chair, Malcolm Grant and Julie Hill, have had a wide range of formal and informal contacts with other regulatory and advisory bodies in the area. These have included meetings with the Chairs of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment and the Food Standards Agency. Since publication of our last annual report, the Chair and Deputy Chair have met Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment. The Commission has met Ministers from the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales. The Chair has also had meetings with Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science, Professor David King, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor Howard Dalton, the Chief Scientific Adviser at DEFRA.
- 34 Malcolm Grant gave evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee on Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in April 2002. In its report, *Genetically Modified Organisms* [HC 767, published 18 June 2002], the Select Committee highlighted the influential role the AEBC has already taken in relation to the debate about GM crops. It recommended that the public debate should proceed along the lines proposed by the AEBC and saw it as an innovative and sensible means of attempting to understand public feelings about a complicated issue. The Committee commended AEBC's ways of working, in particular its transparency, to others involved in the GM debate.

MEDIA RELATIONS

- 35 The AEBC's media relations were handled by Citigate Westminster until the end of March 2002. These are now handled from within the Secretariat.

FEES AND RESOURCES

- 36 Commission members are not salaried but do receive fees for days they spend on AEBC work. These fees are £150 per day for members and £188 for the Chair. Members can also obtain reimbursement for their travel, subsistence and other direct costs of AEBC work.
- 37 The Commission has a secretariat of five and a half full-time equivalent staff provided by Government and based in the Office of Science and Technology, part of the Department of Trade and Industry. The running costs of the Commission are met by Government. A number of departments, including departments in the devolved administrations, contribute to the funding. The costs of running the AEBC, including Commission meetings, publications, external consultancy, research, members' fees and expenses, press office and publicity were £343,000 for 2001/02.

CONTACT US

- 38 The Commission welcomes comments and suggestions for future work priorities and best ways of working. If you have read this annual report and would like to be kept in touch with our work but are not yet on our stakeholder list, do get in touch with us. AEBC members can be contacted through the secretariat based at:

Bay 479
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Telephone enquiries: 020 7215 6508
Fax: 020 7215 0313
e-mail: aebc@dti.gsi.gov.uk

For press enquiries please contact :
Telephone: 020 7215 3863
Fax: 020 7215 0313
e-mail: pat.wilson@dti.gsi.gov.uk

ANNEX A WHO WE ARE

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chair):

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Land Economy at the University of Cambridge

Ms Julie Hill MBE (Deputy Chair)

Programme Adviser and former Director of Green Alliance

Professor Michael Banner

Professor of moral and social theology at King's College, London

Ms Anna Bradley

Director of the National Consumer Council

Ms Helen Browning OBE

Tenant Farmer, Eastbrook Farm; Founder and Director of Eastbrook Farm Organic Meats Ltd

Dr David Carmichael

Arable farmer with an interest in non-food crops

Professor Philip Dale

Leader of the Genetic Modification and Biosafety Research Group at the John Innes Centre, Norwich

Dr Ed Dart CBE

Chairman of Plant Bioscience Ltd

Dr Matthew Freeman

Senior Researcher at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology

Mr John Gilliland

President of the Ulster Farmers Union; arable farmer with a particular interest in sustainable production systems and the pioneering of non-food crops

Professor Robin Grove-White

Professor of Environment & Society, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change, Lancaster University

Dr Rosemary Hails MBE

Ecologist, and Principal Scientific Officer, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Oxford and lecturer at St Anne's College Oxford

Ms Judith Hann

Freelance Broadcaster and writer who presented Tomorrow's World for 20 years.

Ms Chi Chi Iweajunwa

Member of executive evaluation group for NHS Direct and member of Partners Council for NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence)

Dr Derek Langslow CBE

Scientist specialising in nature conservation/biodiversity and former Chief Executive of English Nature

Professor Jeff Maxwell OBE

Former Director, Macaulay Land Use Research Institute

Dr Sue Mayer

Executive Director of GeneWatch UK

Professor Ben Mepham

Director of the Centre for Applied Bioethics at the University of Nottingham and Executive Director of the Food Ethics Council

Ms Justine Thornton

Barrister specialising in environmental law at Allen & Overy Solicitors

Dr Roger Turner

Chief Executive Officer, British Society of Plant Breeders

SECRETARIAT TEAM

Mr Richard Abel (Secretary)

Mrs Anne Packer

Mr Pat Wilson OBE

Ms Mileva Novkovic

Mr Chris Hepworth

Mr Andrea Bovolenta

ANNEX B
LIST OF COMMISSION MEETINGS

We have held seven meetings since publication of our last Annual Report, as follows:

Date	Location	Main subjects covered
5/6 December 2001	London	Discussion of draft report on animals and biotechnology, and Commission's work programme and working methods
6/7 March 2002	London	Discussion of draft report on the regulatory framework for animals and biotechnology, advice to Government on a public debate about the question of commercialisation of GM crops, draft study on horizon scanning and draft revised work plan
18 April 2002	London	Additional meeting to discuss draft advice to Government on a public debate about the question of the commercialisation of GM crops in the UK
5/6 May 2002	Cardiff	Discussion of draft paper on liability issues; stocktake of recommendations made in Crops on Trial, developments since publication of the report, and main issues relating to GM crops in the UK over the next 2 years; update on the work of the consumer choice group; briefings from Welsh Assembly Government on policy on agricultural biotechnology in Wales and on the future strategy for agriculture in Wales
17/18 July 2002	London	Discussion of final draft report on the regulatory framework for animals and biotechnology, liability issues arising from outline draft liability report, revision of draft Work Plan in light of responses to consultation
7 August 2002	London	Additional meeting to discuss the UK Government's response to AEBC advice on the conduct of a public debate on GM issues
11/12 September 2002	Edinburgh	Discussion of liability and evidence taking on consumer choice

ANNEX C

TERMS OF REFERENCE

In 1999 the Government reviewed its advisory and regulatory framework on biotechnology. It concluded that a broader approach was needed for strategic issues. The Agriculture and Biotechnology Commission (AEBC) forms part of the new strategic framework.

The Commission will:

- offer strategic advice to Government on biotechnology issues which impact on agriculture and the environment;
- liaise closely with, but not duplicate the work of the other two bodies which together with the AEBC form the new strategic advisory framework i.e.:
 - the **Human Genetics Commission (HGC)** which will advise on genetic technologies and their impact on humans; and
 - the **Food Standards Agency (FSA)** which will include within its responsibilities all aspects of the safety and use of genetically modified food and animal feed.
- keep under review current and possible future developments in biotechnology with actual or potential implications for agriculture and the environment;
- advise Government on the ethical and social implications arising from these developments and their public acceptability; and
- consider and advise on any specific issues relating to relevant aspects of biotechnology as requested by the Government.

As part of this process the Commission is expected to:

- identify any gaps in the regulatory and advisory framework;
- consider the wider implications of the lessons to be learned from individual cases requiring regulatory decision;
- advise on any changes which should be made to Government guidelines which regulatory bodies are required to follow;
- make recommendations as to changes in the current structure of regulatory and advisory bodies;
- co-ordinate and exchange information with the relevant regulatory and advisory bodies;
- seek to involve and consult stakeholders and the public on a regular basis on the issues which it is considering; and
- operate in accordance with best practice for public bodies with regard to openness, transparency, accessibility, timeliness and exchange of information.

The Commission will:

- in carrying out its work take into account European and global developments;
- nationally, adopt a UK perspective taking appropriate account of legal and other differences between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; and
- draw up a work programme.

The Government may also ask the Commission for advice on a particular issue and, if necessary, direct it not to become involved in an area if this could be better handled elsewhere.

- In the context of the work of the Commission 'Government' comprises the UK Government and the devolved administrations.

ANNEX D MEMBERSHIP OF THE AEBC'S WORKING GROUPS

ANIMALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

Michael Bannner

Anna Bradley (Convenor)

Helen Browning

Matthew Freeman

Judith Hann

Jeff Maxwell

Ben Mepham

The sub group considered:

'How well can current and likely future questions about biotechnology and animals, including genetic modification, be addressed by the existing regulatory and advisory machinery?'

HORIZON SCANNING

Ed Dart

John Gilliland

Julie Hill (Convenor)

Chi Chi Iweajunwa

Derek Langslow

Roger Turner

The terms of reference for the group were:

To keep the AEBC well informed about current and future national and international developments that are relevant to fulfilling its strategic remit. This will include information on:

- *trends in biotechnologies, in agricultural practice and policy, and in environmental issues;*
- *trends in other technologies, where these may interact with biotechnologies;*
- *relevant social, economic, legal and political trends i.e. those that will have a bearing on how biotechnology is shaped and how it is received by society.*

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Dave Carmichael

Phil Dale

Ed Dart

Judith Hann

Chi Chi Iweajunwa

Robin Grove-White (Convenor)

Ben Mepham

This group has developed further advice to Government about the conduct of a public debate on the issues of commercialisation of GM crops in the UK.

CONSUMER CHOICE

Helen Browning

Dave Carmichael

Rosie Hails

Julie Hill

Jeff Maxwell

Roger Turner (Convenor)

The Commission is exploring how biotechnology might affect the mix of farming practices that can co-exist in the UK (conventional, organic and other options such as integrated pest management and conservation grade grains), how compatible these might be, and how any changes to that mix might affect consumers' ability to make choices about food on the basis of how it has been produced as well as on the basis of its nutritional content and safety.

LIABILITY

Phil Dale

Matthew Freeman

John Gilliland

Malcolm Grant

Derek Langslow

Sue Mayer

Justine Thornton (Convenor)

Roger Turner

The Commission is aware of concern about the adequacy of the existing regime for legal liability when it is applied to genetic modification. The group is:

- *identifying and considering the questions that need to be addressed in any debate on liability (and how they might be debated);*
- *surveying and monitoring existing laws and proposals for reform.*

AD HOC GROUP ON DEFRA BASELINE STUDY

Dave Carmichael

Phil Dale

John Gilliland

Rosie Hails (Convenor)

Derek Langslow

This group represents the AEBC on the research review group for a baseline study commissioned by DEFRA on impacts of crop and livestock production systems.

ANNEX E CODE OF CONDUCT

PUBLIC SERVICE VALUES

The board of this advisory non-departmental public body must at all times:

- observe the highest standards of **impartiality**, **integrity** and **objectivity** in relation to the advice they provide and the management of this public body;
- be **accountable** to Parliament and the public more generally for its activities and for the standard of advice it provides; and
- in accordance with Government policy on **openness**, comply fully with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information.

The minister of the sponsoring department is answerable to Parliament for the policies and performance of this body, including the policy framework within which it operates.

STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE

All board members must

- follow the Seven Principles of Public Life set out by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (attached to the end of this Code);
- comply with this Code, and ensure they understand their duties, rights and responsibilities, and that they are familiar with the function and role of this body and any relevant statements of Government policy. New board members should consider attending relevant training or induction courses;
- not misuse information gained in the course of their public service for personal gain or for political purpose, nor seek to use the opportunity of public service to promote their private interests or those of connected persons, firms, businesses or other organisations; and
- not 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. When engaging in other political activities, board members should be conscious of their public role and exercise proper discretion. These restrictions do not apply to MPs (in those cases where MPs are eligible to be appointed), to local councillors, or to Peers in relation to their conduct in the House of Lords.

ROLE OF BOARD MEMBERS

Members of the board have collective responsibility for the operation of this body. They must:

- engage fully in collective consideration of the issues, taking account of the full range of relevant factors, including any guidance issued by the sponsor department or the responsible minister;
- ensure that the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (including prompt responses to public requests for information) is adhered to; agree an Annual Report; and, where practicable and appropriate, hold at least one meeting a year in public;

- respond appropriately to complaints, if necessary with reference to the sponsor department; and
- ensure that the board does not exceed its powers or functions.

Communications between the board and the minister will generally be through the chair except where the board has agreed that an individual member should act on its behalf. Nevertheless, any board member has the right of access to ministers on any matter which he or she believes raises important issues relating to his or her duties as a board member. In such cases the agreement of the rest of the board should normally be sought.

Individual board members can normally be removed from office by the minister if they fail to perform the duties required of them in line with the standards expected in public office.

THE ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The chair has particular responsibility for providing effective leadership on the issues above. In addition, the chair is responsible for:

- ensuring that the board meets at appropriate intervals, and that the minutes of meetings and any reports to the Secretary of State accurately record the decisions taken and, where appropriate, the views of individual board members;
- representing the views of the board to the general public; and
- ensuring that new board members are briefed on appointment (and their training needs considered), and providing an assessment of their performance, on request, when members are considered for re-appointment to the board or for appointment to the board of some other public body.

HANDLING CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

The purpose of these provisions is to avoid any danger of board members being influenced, or appearing to be influenced, by their private interests in the exercise of their public duties. All board members should therefore declare any personal or business interest which may, or may be *perceived* (by a reasonable member of the public) to, influence their judgement. This should include, as a minimum, personal direct and indirect pecuniary interests, and should normally also include, such interests of close family members and of people living in the same household¹. The register of interests should be kept up-to-date and be open to the public. A declaration of any interest should also be made at any board meeting if it relates specifically to a particular issue under consideration, for recording in the minutes (whether or not a board member also withdraws from the meeting).

Board members should not participate in the discussion or determination of matters in which they have an interest, and should normally withdraw from the meeting (even if held in public) if:

- their interest is direct and pecuniary; or
- their interest is covered in specific guidance issued by this body or the sponsor department which requires them not to participate and/or to withdraw from the meeting.

¹ Indirect pecuniary interests arise from connections with bodies which have a direct pecuniary interest or from being a business partner of, or being employed by, a person with such an interest. Non-pecuniary interests include those arising from membership of clubs and other organisations. Close family members include personal partners, parents, children (adult and minor), brothers, sisters and the personal partners of any of these.

PERSONAL LIABILITY OF BOARD MEMBERS

Legal proceedings by a third party against individual board members of advisory bodies are very exceptional. A board member may be personally liable if he or she makes a fraudulent or negligent statement which results in a loss to a third party; or may commit a breach of confidence under common law or a criminal offence under insider dealing legislation, if he or she misuses information gained through their position. However, the Government has indicated that an individual board member who has acted honestly and in good faith will not have to meet out of his or her own personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in the execution or purported execution of his or her board function, save where the person has acted recklessly. Board members who need further advice should consult the sponsor department.

THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC LIFE

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interests.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

**ANNEX F
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (AEBC) -
REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Members have declared personal and non-personal interests, that are current or within the last 5 years as follows:

MEMBER	PERSONAL INTERESTS (i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)		NON-PERSONAL INTERESTS	
	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest
Professor Malcolm Grant (Chair)	Cambridge University	Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Land Economy	UK Environment Law Association	Member
	Local Government Commission	Chairman	RICS	Hon Member (and elected member of Governing Council)
	Clare College, Cambridge	Professorial Fellow		
	Encyclopaedia of Planning Law	Editor	Environmental Law Foundation	Advisory board member
	Encyclopaedia of Environmental Law	Consulting Editor	Centre for Property Law University of Reading	Member of Board of Advisors
	Barrister, 4-5 Gray's Inn Square, London		Ditchley Foundation London Programme Committee	Member and Governor
	Independent Panel on Remuneration of Councillors in London, Association of London Government	Chair	Academy of Learned Societies for the Social Sciences	Academician
	Independent Panel on Members' Allowances, Manchester City Council	Chair		
	Independent Panel on Members' Allowances, Hampshire County Council	Chair		
	Standards Committee, Greater London Authority	Deputy Chair		
Malaysian Government on new legislation for protection of historic buildings	Consultant			

MEMBER**PERSONAL INTERESTS**

(i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)

Name of Organisation Nature of Interest**Ms Julie Hill,
MBE
(Deputy Chair)**

Green Alliance	Former Director
Green Alliance	Remuneration
Shanks Group Plc	Remuneration
TXU PLC	Remuneration
GlaxoSmithKline	Spouse holds shares

NON-PERSONAL INTERESTS**Name of Organisation Nature of Interest**

Unilever	} provide funding to Green Alliance
Sainsbury	
Tesco	
GlaxoSmithKline	
No. of other companies	
Nuffield Council on Bioethics Working Party on GM Crops	former member
Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment	former member

**Professor
Michael Banner**

King's College London	Professor of Moral and Social Theology
Home Office: Animal Procedures Committee	Chair
Department of Health: CJD Incidents Panel	Chair
Shell	Chair of Advisory Panel on Animal Testing

Ms Anna Bradley

National Consumer Council Director

Various retailers, consumer product and service companies, Government departments and regulators	Variety of interests from general support to sponsorship of events or project funding
Advisory Group for Camelot's Social and Ethical Audit projects	Member
Advisory Panel for DEFRA's Horizon Scanning Procurement	Chairman
ESRC commissioning panel for 'Cultures of consumption' research programme	Member

MEMBER**PERSONAL INTERESTS**

(i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)

NON-PERSONAL INTERESTS

	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest
Ms Helen Browning OBE	Eastbrook Farm	Director/Sole trader	Soil Association	Council Member
	Manor Farm, East Grafton	Part owner (one third share)	Tenant Farmers Association	Member
	Eastbrook Farm Organic Meats Ltd	Director/Majority Shareholder	Country Landowners Association	Member
	Eastbrook Farm Organic Pigs Ltd	Director/Shareholder	Kingshay Farming Trust	Member
	Dairy Crest Ltd	Shareholder	Schumacher Society	Member
	Genus Ltd	Shareholder	Rare Breeds Survival Trust	Member
	Organic Milk Suppliers Co-operative	Shareholder	Royal Agricultural Society of England	Fellow
	Friends Provident	Shareholder	The Farmers Club	Member
	Northern Foods (2002 onwards)	Shareholder	National Federation for Self-Employed	Member
	Cranswick Plc (2002 onwards)	Shareholder	FWAG	Member
	Atkins (2002 onwards)	Shareholder	Institute of Directors	Member
	Residuary MMB	In receipt of distribution monies as an eligible producer	Food Ethics Council	Chair and Director
	Meat and Livestock Commission	Commissioner		
	Welsh Organic Foods Ltd	Director		
	BOC Foundation	Consultancy		
	Policy Commission on Food and Farming	Consultancy		
	Other	Speaking fees to various organisations/groups, mainly on organic farming and marketing		
	The Independent Council for Ethical Standards in Food and Agriculture Ltd	Director		

MEMBER**PERSONAL INTERESTS**

(i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)

Name of Organisation Nature of Interest**Dr David Carmichael**

Battle and Pears Ltd	Managing Director
Government Industry Forum on non-food uses of crops	Member
Farm	Arable Farmer

NON-PERSONAL INTERESTS**Name of Organisation Nature of Interest**

British Beet Research Organisation	Member
Administrative Council of the International Institute for Beet Research	Member
NFU Biotechnology Working Group	Member
NFU Sugar Beet Committee	Member
The Supply Chain Initiative for Modified Arable Crops	NFU representative
St Barnabas Hospice	Trustee
Connexions (Lincs)	Non-executive Director
RSPB	Member
US Department of State Board Member	Attendance on Voluntary Visitors Programme

Professor Phil Dale

John Innes Centre	Leader of Genetic Modification and Biosafety Research Group
Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes	Deputy Chairman
Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment	Former Member
EU	Occasional adviser
DEFRA (DETR)	Consultant Adviser
UNIDO	Occasional adviser
UNEP	Occasional adviser
OECD	Occasional adviser

University of East Anglia	Honorary Professor of Biological Sciences
Society for Experimental Biology	Member
Institute of Biology	Fellow
Institute of Biology Agricultural Sciences Committee	Member
Genetical Society	Member
International Association for Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology	Member
European Association of Plant Breeders	Member
BBSRC/NERC Steering Committee for the Initiative on Gene flow in plants and micro-organisms	Member
DEFRA Horizon scanning research programme advisory panel	Member
Steering Committee for a pan-European research programme supported by the European Science Foundation entitled "Assessment of the Impacts of Genetically Modified Plants"	Member
BBSRC/DEFRA/EU	Funding for research
Property purchaser	Advisor on GM Biosafety
US Department of State	Attendance on Voluntary Visitors Programme
Rockefeller maize biotechnology research programme	Advisory Committee member

MEMBER**PERSONAL INTERESTS**

(i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)

Name of Organisation Nature of Interest

Dr Ed Dart CBE	Plant Bioscience Ltd	Chairman
	Syngenta	Shareholder
	AstraZeneca	Shareholder
	Zeneca	Former R & D Director of Zeneca Seeds Pensioner
	Norwich Research Park	Former Chief Executive
	AdProTechLtd	Former Chief Executive Officer

NON-PERSONAL INTERESTS**Name of Organisation Nature of Interest**

Dr Matthew Freeman	MRC - Laboratory of Molecular Biology	Senior Researcher	Committee of Genetics Society	Member
			Executive Committee of Save British Science Society	Member
			British Society for Developmental Biology	Member
			British Society for Cell Biology	Member
			European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO)	Member
			EMBO Science and Society Committee	Member
			MRC Advisory Board	Member
			Canadian NSERC	Member
			Cambridge Commonwealth Trust	} Research funding
			Trinity College	
			MRC	
			EU	
			EMBO Human Frontiers Science Program	

MEMBER**PERSONAL INTERESTS**

(i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)

Name of Organisation Nature of Interest

Mr John Gilliland	Brook Hall Estate	Managing Partner
	Home Grown Cereal Authority	Director
	Rural Generation Ltd	Director and Chairman
	Ulster Farmers Union	President

NON-PERSONAL INTERESTS**Name of Organisation Nature of Interest**

Mr John Gilliland	British Biogen	Member
	RNLI Londonderry Branch	Member
	Department of Agriculture for NI-R&D Strategy Committee	Member
	NI Centre of Energy Research and Technology Management Committee	Member
	EU DG Agricultural Advisory Committees on Energy and Industrial Crops	UK Alternate Member
	Ulster Farmers Union Central Seeds and Cereals Committee	Past Chairman
	NI Farm Quality Assured Cereals Scheme	Past Chairman
	Rural Support	Chairman
	Professor Robin Grove-White	Lancaster University
Dr Rosemary Hails MBE	Natural Environment Research Council	Principal Scientific Officer and Project Leader in the Quantitative Ecology Group, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Oxford
	St Anne's College, Oxford	Fellow in Quantitative Methods
	Zeneca	Co-supervision of post-doctoral scientist on a grant 50% funded (ended in 1999)
	British Ecological Society	Member
	Royal Entomological Society	Fellow
	Ecological Society of America	Member
	Society of Invertebrate Pathology	Member
	BBSRC/NERC/DEFRA/EU and others	Several grants from funding bodies
US Department of State	Attendance on Voluntary Visitors Programme	
Ms Judith Hann	Farm	Co-owner
	The Media Advantage	Runs her own media Training company
	BBC	Presenter of BBC1's "Tomorrow's World" for 20 years until mid-90s Freelance writer - author of 7 books
	Waste Watch	Vice President

MEMBER**PERSONAL INTERESTS**

(i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)

NON-PERSONAL INTERESTS

	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest
Ms Chi Chi Iweajunwa	National Institute of Clinical excellence	Member of Partners Council		
	NHS Direct Department of Health	Member of executive evaluation group		
	NHS Special Authority	Member of appraisal panel		
	London Probation Board	Member		
	Jazz House	Trustee		
Dr Derek Langslow CBE	British Waterways	Director (non-executive)	Independent Transport Commission	Member
	Harwich Haven Authority	Director (non-executive)		
	Rail Passengers' Committee for Eastern England	Chairman		
	National Rail Passengers' Council	Member		
	DEFRA	Consultant		
	Heritage Lottery Fund	Trustee		
Professor Jeff Maxwell	Macaulay Land Use Research Institute	Director (Retired October 2000)	Macaulay Development Trust	Trustee (Resigned October 2000)
	Macaulay Research and Consultancy Services Ltd	Chief Executive (Retired October 2000)	National Trust for Scotland	Council Member serving on three committees
	Consultant on Agriculture and the Environment		Scottish Executive - Environment and Rural Affairs Department Agriculture and Environment Working Group	Chairman
Dr Sue Mayer	GeneWatch UK	Executive Director	Vetwork UK (Animal Welfare Charity)	Chair and Trustee
	Science and Technology Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex.	Senior Research Fellow	Green Alliance	Member
			Genetics Forum	Editorial Board of 'Splice'
			Friends of the Earth	} Work undertaken by GeneWatch UK
			Guardian	
			Unilever	
			RSPB	
			Action Aid	
			Greenpeace	
			Consumers' Association	
			WHO	
		Lancaster University	Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute for Environment, Philosophy and Public Policy	
		Five Year Freeze Campaign	Steering Group	
		Greenpeace	Board Member	
		Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification, Technical Committee	Member	

MEMBER**PERSONAL INTERESTS**

(i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)

Name of Organisation **Nature of Interest****Professor
Ben Mepham**

Food Ethics Council	Executive Director
University of Nottingham	Director of Centre for Applied Bioethics
Routledge Academic Press	Royalties
Various educational establishments	Lecture fees

NON-PERSONAL INTERESTS**Name of Organisation** **Nature of Interest**

University of Nottingham Research Committee	Funding of bioethics Research
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	} Funding of Food Ethics Council
Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation	
Allen Lane Foundation	
Executive committee of European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics	Member
Society for Applied Philosophy	Member
Editorial Board of Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics	Member
Editorial Board of Agriculture and Human Values	Member
Farm and Food Society	Patron
University of Nottingham	Research grant
Compassion in World Farming	Project grant

**Ms Justine
Thornton**

Barrister employed by Allen & Overy Solicitors

Dr Roger Turner

Aventis Pharma	Pensioner in the Fisons pension fund
British Society of Plant Breeders	Chief Executive
Axa Sun Life	Personal Pension
Sinclair Horticulture and Leisure Ltd	Shareholder
'Crop Protection', a science journal published by Elsevier Science Ltd	Principal Editor
Supa Plants Ltd	Shareholder

The Supply Chain Initiative for Modified Arable Crops (SCIMAC)	Chairman
Rothamsted Experimental Station	Director
Crop Evaluation Ltd	Director
British Crop Protection Council	Dr Turner represents the British Society of Plant Breeders on BCPC of which BSPB has corporate membership
Post Graduate Course in Plant Breeding & Biotechnology, University of East Anglia, Norwich, John Innes Centre, Norwich	Member Advisory Board



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