

Chemicals Regulation Directorate

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Reference

To: Pesticide Forum members
Pesticides Strategy Action Plan Group members

Dear Stakeholders

Review of Stakeholder engagement for the Pesticides National Action Plan

As you will recall, the UK Pesticides Strategy launched in 2006 included the formation of several stakeholder "action plan groups" to take forward aspects of the strategy. Since then there have been a number of developments which require us to review the type and number of stakeholder groups supporting the strategy and action plans, particularly the need for development of a pesticides National Action Plan under the EU directive on the sustainable use of pesticides.

Earlier this year we sought comments from members of the Pesticides Strategy Action Plan Implementation groups on the current arrangements. The feedback stressed the need for good communication between stakeholders and Government, and highlighted a number of positive things that have come out of the groups. However given the length of time since the groups were set up and the need to prioritise resources, many members supported the need for a review of the role and number of the groups to allow stakeholders to provide more focussed input and more targeted use of resources.

Ministers have therefore agreed a change to reduce the number of groups and provide a more flexible model for ongoing delivery of the pesticides National Action Plan. The Pesticides Forum will remain as the principal stakeholder engagement group for this work with a greater use of short-life working groups and expert contributions to deal with specific issues identified by Government or stakeholders (as it did most recently with its successful Container Management Group). The working groups will take on the responsibility for delivery and implementation in specific areas and issues, and report back results to the Forum. Defra and CRD through the Forum secretariat will look to involve relevant contacts from the previous action plan groups and others as experts by the Forum for specific projects as and when necessary. As part of this we expect that the Forum will continue to work closely with the farming industry's Voluntary Initiative on the National Action Plan.

Ministers also agreed that a limited number of areas needed specific stakeholder engagement arrangements and so "liaison" groups will be developed on Amateur use and Amenity use (the latter working closely with the industry's Amenity Forum) and to liaise with industry on availability of crop protection products. The current Availability group membership will be reviewed to form the latter. All these groups will be kept under regular review. A chart showing the new structure is attached.

In order to facilitate this change and ensure continuity of expertise from the current structure, Ministers have agreed that James Clarke, current Chair of the Pesticides Forum, should continue in this role for three years until the end of 2014. Before this point, there will be a review of the new structure and of the Pesticides Forum.

We are grateful to all those who took part in the review, and provided feedback. We have greatly valued your contributions in the Action Plan Groups and look forward to working with you all under the new structure.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Mason', with a stylized, cursive script.

ROB MASON

www.pesticides.gov.uk

Pesticides National Action Plan – stakeholder engagement structure



