



AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2000 - 2001

October 2001

Contents

Introduction	5
How we have gone about our work	6
What we have done so far as a Commission	6
The subjects we have been looking at	8
What the Commission's sub-groups have been doing	8
Developmental groups	10
Working with other bodies	10
Press Office	10
Fees and resources	11
Contact us	11
Annex A Who we are	13
Annex B List of Commission meetings	15
Annex C Terms of reference	17
Annex D Membership of sub-groups and developmental groups	19
Annex E Code of conduct	23
Annex F Register of members' interests	27

Introduction

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.

This report covers the year from our launch and first Commission meeting last summer to our seventh meeting of the full Commission, in Belfast, this September. It sets out how we have approached our work, and our key achievements over the year.

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.

The AEBC was set up to be an experimental and innovative advisory body, and 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.

Until June 2001 we reported to the United Kingdom Government through Mo Mowlam, then the Minister for the Cabinet Office, as chair of the Ministerial Committee on Biotechnology. We now 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 continue to report to the following Ministers in the devolved administrations: Susan Deacon MSP, Scottish Executive Minister for Health and Community Care, Carwyn Jones AM, Welsh Assembly Secretary for Agriculture and Rural Development, and Sam Foster MLA, Minister of the Environment, Northern Ireland.

Our first year has been very lively and interesting, as we have worked out how to approach this challenging job. We have set ourselves a demanding programme of work, which was set out in our Work Plan. We published our first report, *Crops on Trial*, on 10 September 2001.

In the highly sensitive and complex area of biotechnology and the especially difficult area of genetic modification there has been and continues to be a great deal of polarisation in viewpoints. We aim to debate issues thoroughly and robustly, to gather evidence, analyse and use it, and to come to conclusions, so that we can advise Ministers effectively and so that we can encourage and engage in constructive public debate. The AEBC will continue to strive to achieve this aim.

How we have gone about our work

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 advertising, direct mail and other 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 have a long and growing list of stakeholders with whom we keep in touch by sending to them a regular newsletter and other information.

We have been exploring a range 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. This September, for example, the Commission held a very successful open meeting for sixth formers in Belfast to gauge their understanding and responses to the issues surrounding biotechnology.

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 people have completed.

We have worked alongside the regulatory bodies in agricultural biotechnology, and alongside the two other bodies in the strategic framework, the Human Genetics Commission and the Food Standards Agency. We and these other bodies will continue to keep each other in the picture as our work develops.

What we have done so far as a Commission

As a Commission, we have:

- ◆ *Consulted people about our Work Plan and published it*

Over 400 organisations and individuals participated in the consultation between September and December 2000 on our proposed Work Plan. The consultative process began in Edinburgh at a Parliamentary Committee hearing of the Transport and Environment Committee of the Scottish Parliament last September, and included contributions made at the Commission's first public consultative meeting in London in December. We took into account the valuable comments made by a wide range of people in letters and e-mails and at the public meeting.

We published our Work Plan in January this year. It was subsequently endorsed by Ministers. It represents an ambitious programme of work which we hope will make a significant contribution to informing the debates currently underway about the implications of biotechnology for agriculture and the

environment. We expect to revisit the Work Plan early next year to reflect the work we have completed already and new avenues of enquiry.

◆ *Published our first major report*

Our first major report, *Crops on Trial*, was published in September. It can be viewed on our website (www.aebc.gov.uk). It has been welcomed by Ministers, and received a positive reception from most commentators. Ministers have promised to respond formally to its recommendations.

The report is based on work by the sub-group which considered the Farm-Scale Evaluations (FSEs) as a case study of strategic decision-making in biotechnology. It is however a report of the full Commission, whose members have agreed the content, including the recommendations to Government.

The members of the Commission were selected to allow very different perspectives to be brought to bear on subjects where public debate has been highly polarised. It has been a considerable achievement for our twenty Commission Members to work together in a constructive way, respecting and learning from each other's viewpoints. We had very robust discussions along the way; but all members agreed the report and its recommendations.

◆ *Sought to involve the public and interested groups in our work*

Our first two meetings were for Commission members only, to start considering the priorities for our work. All five subsequent Commission meetings have included sessions where we have had public debates or invited people to observe the Commission at work.

In December 2000 in London we had a public meeting with stakeholders. In February 2001 in Norwich, we had two public meetings, one about our Work Plan and one for people to hear evidence from scientists, Government, non-governmental organisations and industry about the FSEs. In April in Edinburgh we held a panel discussion about animals and biotechnology, where Commission members and members of the public asked a wide range of questions. In Birmingham in July, we had two open meetings. One was a panel discussion about possible scenarios for agricultural biotechnology in the future, and one was for people to hear evidence about the regulatory framework for animals and biotechnology. In Belfast in September we held a public debate and a separate discussion with local school students.

As part of the work on animals and biotechnology we have also commissioned work with discussion groups to help inform us about public attitudes in this area. We continue to explore a variety of ways to help us fulfil our remit to engage the public.

The subjects we have been looking at

The Commission takes much of its work forward in sub-groups who prepare draft reports for the full Commission to consider. Over its first year the Commission has also had three developmental groups investigating the viability of further areas that could be developed into sub-group studies.

The three sub-groups have been considering:

- ◆ *Strategic decision-making in biotechnology, using the Government's Farm-Scale Evaluations (FSEs) as a case study;*
- ◆ *Animals and biotechnology;*
- ◆ *Horizon scanning for potential developments in agricultural biotechnology.*

The three developmental groups have looked at:

- ◆ *Public attitudes and consumer choice;*
- ◆ *Liability;*
- ◆ *Bioremediation.*

Details of the groups' membership and terms of reference are at Annex D.

What the Commission's sub-groups have been doing

Strategic decision-making in biotechnology

This sub-group has now completed its work, which culminated in the Commission's report *Crops on Trial*.

The sub-group held both deliberative and public meetings to inform its work, including a meeting in Inverness, which was hosted by the Highland Council, and a meeting with a local school. The group led the full Commission in the evidence-taking session in Norwich in February, and has met informally with farmers and with representatives from the Women's Institute, the Women's Food and Farming Union and local councils. Overall, it had discussions with a wide range of people in the course of preparing its report.

Animals and biotechnology

The animals and biotechnology sub-group has had eight meetings, with a range of informal briefing meetings with a variety of experts. The sub-group is taking account of a variety of perspectives, from people working in agriculture, the pharmaceutical industry, environmental organisations and in animal welfare.

MORI have recruited a reference group from the general public to help inform the sub-group about public concerns. In addition the group commissioned a survey of existing research in the United Kingdom on public attitudes to animals and biotechnology. This established that there was no research specifically on animals and biotechnology. In the light of this finding, the sub-group commissioned a qualitative research study on "Contemporary UK public attitudes and sensibilities towards animals".

The public meeting at the Commission meeting in Edinburgh in April 2001 focussed on animals, and was run on the lines of a question-time session with outside panellists.

The sub-group held a formal evidence-taking session at the AEBC meeting in Birmingham, focusing on the regulatory and advisory structure as it relates to animals and biotechnology. Government officials and the Chair of the Farm Animal Welfare Council gave evidence. The sub-group will be taking further evidence from and holding more informal discussions with other parties before presenting a draft report for consideration by the whole Commission in December 2001. The Commission aims to publish a formal report in early 2002.

◆ *Horizon scanning for potential developments in agricultural biotechnology*

The horizon scanning sub-group has met seven times. It has met a group from the Church of Scotland's Science, Religion and Technology project, and had discussions with English Nature, the National Farmers' Union and senior officials from the Departments of Trade and Industry and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. On 18 July 2001 the AEBC public meeting discussed possible future scenarios for the take up of genetic modification in agriculture in the United Kingdom. This took the form of a panel discussion with representatives from CropGen, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the National Farmers' Union. At the Commission's meeting in Belfast in September 2001 there were two further sessions on horizon scanning, one involving students from local schools and a public meeting which debated the future of biotechnology in Northern Ireland.

The sub-group plan to publish an account of developments in biotechnology and an indication of the issues raised by the technology. This study is intended 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. Once the study is published on the internet, the Commission plans to invite comments on the study and contributions to it from the public and outside bodies.

Developmental groups

◆ *Public attitudes and consumer choice.*

The public attitudes and consumer choice developmental group held a seminar with leading academics in social research in January 2001. The group met again in Norwich in February. The group is considering further what tools are available to engage the public in the Commission's work. Consumer choice, which relates to further work on geneflow and the question of co-existence of genetically modified and other crops, will be the subject in future of work in a separate developmental group.

◆ *Liability.*

The liability developmental group has met three times. This important area of work will now be taken forward in a sub-group following its initial consideration in this developmental group.

◆ *Bioremediation.*

The bioremediation developmental group members attended a conference on this topic earlier in the year. This area of study is now being taken forward in conjunction with work on liability and other developmental work.

Working with other bodies

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 discussions with ACRE, the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, in April 2001. They have met the Chairs of the Food Standards Agency, the Human Genetics Commission, the Advisory Committee on Pesticides, the Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification, and the Farm Animal Welfare Council, and have also met English Nature, which has a co-ordinating role for the statutory nature conservation bodies.

Malcolm Grant gave evidence to the House of Commons Agriculture Select Committee in June 2000, very soon after the Commission's launch. Malcolm Grant and Jeff Maxwell, the Commission member appointed by Scottish Ministers, jointly gave evidence to the Scottish Parliament Transport and the Environment Committee in September 2000.

Press Office

The Commission decided that it should have a press office that is clearly independent of government. Since December 2000, Citigate Westminster has worked with the AEBC to develop a communications strategy, set up and provide a press office service, produce a communications audit, and help

explore methods of consulting the public. Citigate Westminster also provides advertising, direct mail and public relations support for Commission meetings to help ensure as many people as possible know about the AEBC and its work. Their contract runs until the end of March 2002.

Fees and resources

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 (£163 up to 30 November 2000). Members can also obtain reimbursement for their travel, subsistence and other direct costs of AEBC work.

The Commission has a secretariat of five people 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 are expected to be around £330,000 for the first full year of the Commission's existence. The costs for the period up to the end of March 2001 were £154,000. These figures do not include the cost of the secretariat staff.

Contact us

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:

Albany House
94-98 Petty France
London
SW1H 9ST

Telephone enquiries: 020 7271 2131
Fax: 020 7271 2028
e-mail: aebc.contact@dti.gsi.gov.uk

For press enquiries please contact our Press Office:

Telephone: 020 7838 4886
Fax: 020 7838 4871
e-mail: aebcpressoffice@westminster.com

Who we are

Professor Malcolm Grant (Chair):

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 Kings 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 concentrating on seed production from combinable 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

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

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 and Board Member 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 Simmons & Simmons

Dr Roger Turner

Chief Executive Officer, British Society of Plant Breeders

List of Commission meetings

We have held seven meetings so far, as follows:

Date	Location	Main subjects covered
13/14 September 2001	Belfast	<p>Meeting with Belfast school students to discuss biotechnology issues.</p> <p>Public debate on the future of biotechnology in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Discussion of work on animals and biotechnology, including research into public attitudes, the horizon scanning report, and a revised Work Plan.</p>
18/19 July 2001	Birmingham	<p>Public debate about horizon scanning and the future of biotechnology.</p> <p>Public evidence-taking sessions on animals and biotechnology.</p> <p>Further discussion of draft Farm-Scale Evaluations (FSEs) report.</p>
23/24 April 2001	Edinburgh	<p>Discussion of draft FSE report.</p> <p>Public debate and AEBC discussions on animals and biotechnology.</p>
5/6 February 2001	Norwich	<p>Public debate about the Commission's work, particularly the FSEs.</p> <p>Public evidence-taking sessions with FSEs project director, Government officials,</p>

		non-governmental organisations and industry on issues around the FSEs.
6/7 December 2000	London	Briefing on ethical issues. Public meeting to consult on three initial and three developmental areas of work AEBC discussion in public to confirm final Work Plan.
7 September 2000	Oxford	Discussion of Work Plan and communications strategy. Discussion of the following areas of work: decision-making in biotechnology; horizon scanning; factors affecting consumer choice; and research into public attitudes to GMOs.
6 July 2000	Cambridge	Discussion of possible subjects for Work Plan and way of working.

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 ie:
 - 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.

Membership of sub-groups and developmental groups

Sub-group membership

Decision-making: Farm-Scale Evaluations

Dave Carmichael
Phil Dale
Robin Grove-White
Rosie Hails
Jeff Maxwell
Sue Mayer
Justine Thornton (Convenor)

The group evaluated the role of the Farm-Scale Evaluations in the regulatory process and in appraising the impact of GM plant technology on the environment.

Animals and biotechnology

Michael Bannner
Anna Bradley (Convenor)
Helen Browning
Matthew Freeman
Judith Hann
Jeff Maxwell
Ben Mepham

The sub group has taken as its starting point the question:

'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 are:

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.*

Developmental group membership

Public attitudes/Consumer choice

Anna Bradley
Helen Browning
Dave Carmichael
Ed Dart
Robin Grove-White (Convenor)
Sue Mayer
Ben Mepham

The Commission is interested to explore 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. We will also want to consider the impacts of the global supply chain on consumer choice.

Bioremediation

Phil Dale
Rosie Hails (Convenor)
Judith Hann

Bioremediation involves current and future potential applications of biotechnology to clean up contaminated land. This raises a number of issues, including the potential problems involved in treating large areas of land, the problems involved in detecting contaminants, the relative economic and environmental risks and benefits of using biological, chemical or physical

methods of clean up, and the potential use of modified micro-organisms in bioremediation.

Liability

Matthew Freeman
John Gilliland
Derek Langslow
Justine Thornton (Convenor)

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

- ◆ *identify and consider the questions that need to be addressed in any debate on liability (and how they might be debated);*
- ◆ *survey and monitor existing laws and proposals for reform.*

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.

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.

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.

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

Register of Members' interests

Members have declared personal and non-personal interests, that are current or within the last five 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 Michael Banner	Kings College London Home Office: Animal Procedures Committee Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution Dept. of Health: CJD Incidents Panel	Professor of Moral and Social Theology Chair Member Chair		
Ms Anna Bradley	National Consumer Council Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence	Director Former Executive Director and Company Secretary (1993-98)	Various retailers, consumer product and service companies, Government Departments, Regulators	Variety of interests from general support to sponsorship of events or project funding
Ms Helen Browning OBE	Eastbrook Farm Manor Farm, East Grafton Eastbrook Farm Organic Meats Ltd	Sole trader Part owner Director/Majority Shareholder	Soil Association Tenant Farmers Association Country Land owners Kingshay Farming Trust	Chairman Member Member

	Personal Interests (i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)		Non-Personal Interests	
Member	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest
	Eastbrook Farm Organic Pigs Ltd	Shareholder	Schumacher Society	Member
	Dairy Crest Ltd	Shareholder	Rare Breeds Survival Trust	Member
	Genus Ltd	Shareholder	Royal Agricultural Society of England	Member
	Organic Milk Suppliers Cooperative	Shareholder	National Federation for Self Employed	Member
	Meat and Livestock Commission	Commissioner	FWAG	Member
			Sustainable Development Commission	Member
			Policy Commission on the Future of Farming and Food	Member
			Food Ethics Council	Chairman
Dr David Carmichael	Battle and Pears Ltd	Managing Director	British Beet Research Organisation	Board Member
	Government Industry Forum on non-food uses of crops	Member	Administrative Council of the International Institute for Beet Research	Member
	Farm	Arable Farmer	NFU Biotechnology Working Group	Member
			NFU Sugar Beet Committee	Member

	Personal Interests (i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)		Non-Personal Interests	
Member	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest
			The Supply Chain Initiative for Modified Arable Crops	NFU representative
			St Barnabas Hospice	Trustee
			Connexions (Lincs)	Non-executive Director
			Green Alliance	Member
			RSPB	Member
Professor Philip Dale	John Innes Centre	Leader of Genetic Modification and Biosafety Research Group	University of East Anglia	Honorary Professor of Biological Sciences
	EU	Occasional advisor	Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment	Former member
	UNIDO	Occasional advisor	Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes	Member
	UNEP	Occasional advisor	Institute of Biology	Member
	OECD	Occasional advisor	Institute of Biology Agricultural Sciences Committee	Member
	DEFRA	Consultant advisor	Genetical Society	Member
			Society for Experimental Biology	Member

	Personal Interests (i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)		Non-Personal Interests	
Member	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest
			International Association for Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology	Member
			European Association of Plant Breeders	Member
			BBSRC	} Funding for research
			DEFRA	
			EU	
			Property purchaser	Advisor on GM biosafety
			US Department of State	Attendance on Voluntary Visitors Programme
Dr Ed Dart CBE	Plant Bioscience Ltd	Chairman	UK Government Foresight Panel on Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry	Former Chairman
	Zeneca/ICI Ltd	Shareholder		
	Zeneca	Former R & D Director of Zeneca Seeds Pensioner	UK Advisory Committee on Genetic Manipulation	Former Member
	Norwich Research Park AdProTechLtd	Former Chief Executive Officer	BBSRC Council	Former Member

	Personal Interests (i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)		Non-Personal Interests	
Member	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	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	}
			Cambridge Commonwealth Trust	}
			Trinity College	} Research funding
			MRC	}
			EU	}
			EMBO	}
			Human Frontiers Science Program	}

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
Mr John Gilliland	Brook Hall Estate	Managing Partner	British Biogen Council	Member
	Home Grown Cereal Authority	Director	RNLI Londonderry Branch	Member
	Rural Generation Ltd	Director and Chairman	Department of Agriculture for NI-R&D Strategy Committee	Member
	Ulster Farmers Union	Deputy President	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
Professor Malcolm Grant (Chair)	Cambridge University	Professor of Land Economy	UK Environment Law Association	Member
	Local Government Commission	Chairman	Royal Town Planning Institute	Hon Member (and elected member of Council)
	Clare College, Cambridge	Professorial Fellow	RICS	Hon Member (and elected member of Governing Council)
	Encyclopaedia of Planning Law	Editor		
	Encyclopaedia of Environmental Law Barrister in City Chambers	Consulting Editor		

	Personal Interests (i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)		Non-Personal Interests	
Member	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest
Professor Robin Grove-White	Lancaster University	Professor of Environment and Society Director of the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change	Greenpeace Green Alliance	Board Chair Executive Committee Member
Dr Rosemary Hails MBE	Natural Environment Research Council St Anne's College, Oxford DEFRA (via FRCA)	Principal Scientific Officer and Project Leader in the Quantitative Ecology Group, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Oxford Fellow in Quantitative Methods Husband employed on implementing/policing countryside stewardship schemes for farmers	Zeneca British Ecological Society Royal Entomological Society Ecological Society of America Society of Invertebrate Pathology BBSRC/NERC BBSRC	Co-supervision of post-doctoral scientist on a grant 50% funded (ended in 1999) Member Fellow Member Member Grant under the gene flow initiative Grant to research evolution of resistance to Bt toxins

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
	London Probation Board	Member		
	Jazz House	Trustee		
Dr Derek Langslow	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		
Professor Jeff Maxwell OBE	Macauley Land Use Research Institute	Director (Retired October 2000)	Macauley Development Trust	Trustee (Resigned October 2000)
	Macauley Research and Consultancy Services Ltd	Chief Executive (Retired October 2000)	National Trust for Scotland	Council Member serving on three committees
			Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department Agriculture and Environment Working Group	Chairman

	Personal Interests (i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)		Non-Personal Interests	
Member	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest
Dr Sue Mayer	GeneWatch UK Science and Technology Research Unit, University of Sussex.	Executive Director and Board Member Senior Research Fellow.	Vetwork UK (Animal Welfare Charity) Green Alliance Genetics Forum Friends of the Earth Guardian Unilever RSPB Action Aid Greenpeace Lancaster University	Chair and Trustee Member Editorial Board of 'Splice' Commissioned work Commissioned work } }work undertaken by }GeneWatch UK } Honorary Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change
Professor Ben Mepham	Food Ethics Council University of Nottingham	Executive Director Director of Centre for Applied Bioethics	University of Nottingham Research Committee Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation Allen Lane Foundation	Funding of bioethics research } } Funding of Food Ethics Council } } }

	Personal Interests (i.e. those involving payment to the member personally)		Non-Personal Interests	
Member	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest	Name of Organisation	Nature of Interest
			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
			The Farm and Food Society	Patron
Ms Justine Thornton	Simmons & Simmons			
Dr Roger Turner	Rhone Poulenc	Pensioner in the Fisons pension fund	The Supply Chain Initiative for Modified Arable Crops (SCIMAC)	Chairman
	British Society of Plant Breeders	Chief Executive	Rothamsted Experimental Station	Director
			Crop Evaluation Ltd	Director