

UK biotechnology advisory & regulatory bodies : background paper.

Contributors

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**UK BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY &
REGULATORY BODIES
BACKGROUND PAPER**

Office of Science and Technology - December 1998

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INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

The Ministerial Group on Biotechnology and Genetic Modification was established in October to take a strategic view of biotechnology policy. Given the fast pace of recent advances in the technology, the Group decided that it would be helpful to review the current system which is in place to advise Government on biotechnology, in order that Ministers can be confident that the system is robust enough to meet current and future needs. This document aims to give a factual overview of the current system.

This system is based upon a number of regulatory and advisory committees which address issues raised by advances in modern biotechnology. List A contains committees established to deal specifically with questions arising from biotechnology. List B details other committees, originally established to oversee areas broader than just biotechnology, which now play an important role in advising Ministers on the technology (e.g. the Committee on Safety of Medicines advises on biotechnology-based medicines alongside its other work). Website addresses of committees have been included.

Consultees should be aware that the framework for biotechnology fits into a wider regulatory framework which advises Ministers on broader aspects of health, medicines, environment, food, agriculture, animal welfare etc. Some of the committees in this wider system may occasionally undertake limited amounts of biotechnology-based work in the course of their wider duties (e.g. the National Screening Committee (NSC), which advises Ministers on population screening programs). Committees throughout the Government system do not operate in isolation. Some products may be looked at by a number of committees, and different committees may work together on specific issues. In addition, there is a degree of cross committee membership, as well as contact/meetings between Chairmen, Members and Secretariats. Furthermore, the UK system fits into a broader framework of European regulation of biotechnology.

INTRODUCTION

The Ministerial Group on Biotechnology and Genetic Modification was established in October to take a strategic view of biotechnology policy. Given the fast pace of recent advances in the technology, the Group decided that it would be helpful to review the current system which is in place to advise Government on biotechnology, in order that Ministers can be confident that the system is robust enough to meet current and future needs. This document aims to give a factual overview of the current system.

This system is based upon a number of regulatory and advisory committees which address issues raised by advances in modern biotechnology. List A contains committees established to deal specifically with questions arising from biotechnology. List B details other committees, originally established to oversee areas outside the fast biotechnology, which now play an important role in advising Ministers on the technology (e.g. the Committee on Safety of Medicines advises on biotechnology-based medicines alongside its other work). Where advice of committees has been included.

Committees should be aware that the framework for biotechnology fits into a wider regulatory framework which advises Ministers on broader aspects of health, medicine, environment, food, agriculture, animal welfare etc. Some of the committees in this wider system may occasionally undertake limited amounts of biotechnology-based work in the course of their wider duties (e.g. the National Screening Committee (NSC), which advises Ministers on population screening programs). Committees throughout the Government system do not operate in isolation. Some products may be looked at by a number of committees, and different committees may work together on specific issues. In addition, there is a degree of cross committee membership, as well as contact meetings between Chairman, Members and Secretaries. Furthermore, the UK system fits into a broader framework of European regulation of biotechnology.

This review will focus primarily on the operation of the committees named in the attached lists, which are the most directly involved in advising Government. This should not stop consultees making comments on the broader aspects if they feel these would be helpful.

The following committees were established specifically to address issues arising from developments in modern biotechnology.

(i) **Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification (ACGM)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises the Health and Safety Commission/Executive and Ministers on all aspects of human and environmental safety of the commercial use of genetically modified organisms under the GMOs (Contained Use) Regulations 1992 (based on EC Directive 90/269) as amended. ACGM focuses on safety questions in the laboratory and industrial installations. It is not involved in product approval. Website: <http://www.open.gov.uk/foi/openacgm.html>

(ii) **Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing (ACGT)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises Health Ministers on developments in genetic testing, taking account of ethical, social and scientific aspects. It establishes requirements, especially in respect of efficacy and product information, to be met by manufacturers and suppliers of genetic tests. Website: <http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/genetics/home>

(iii) **Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)** - is a statutory body under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA Act 1990), which advises Government, Agriculture and Northern Ireland Ministers, and the Health and Safety Commission/Executive, and other bodies as appropriate on the release of genetically modified organisms into the environment. In particular, it advises on the safety of people regarding the release of GMOs under EPA Act 1990, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations 1993 (Genetic Modification). It also advises on research needs. Website: <http://www.environment.data.gov.uk/acre/>

(iv) **Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises UK Health Ministers on developments in gene therapy research and their implications. It reviews and if appropriate approves individual protocols for gene therapy research. It works closely with the statutory body for medical products, the Medicines Commission Agency (MCA), and with research and its innovations. Website: <http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/genetics/home>

(v) **Human Genetics Advisory Commission (HGAC)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which reports to Treasury and Health Ministers on issues relating to the development in human genetics that can be expected to have wider social, ethical, and/or economic consequences, for example in relation to insurance, genetic employment and public health. It is invited under review to scientific progress in the frontiers of human genetics and related fields, and advises on ways to fund genetic research in, and understanding of, the new genome. It works closely with other bodies and has a significant degree of shared membership with other advisory committees in the human genetics area. Website: <http://www.hll.gov.uk/hgac/>

This notice will focus primarily on the operation of the committee named in the
attached list, which are the ones directly involved in advising Government. The
should not stop committees making comment on the broader aspects if they feel these
would be helpful.

List A

The following bodies were established specifically to address issues arising from developments in modern biotechnology.

- (i) **Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification (ACGM)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises the Health and Safety Commission/Executive and Ministers on all aspects of human and environmental safety of the contained use of genetically modified organisms under the GMO (Contained Use) Regulations 1992 (based on EC Directive 90/219), as amended. ACGM focuses on safety questions in the laboratory and industrial installations. It is not involved in product approval. Website ([http:// www.open.gov.uk/hse/openacgm.htm](http://www.open.gov.uk/hse/openacgm.htm))
- (ii) **Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing (ACGT)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises Health Ministers on developments in genetic testing, taking account of ethical, social and scientific aspects. It establishes requirements, especially in respect of efficacy and product information, to be met by manufacturers and suppliers of genetic tests. Website (<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/genetics/htm>)
- (iii) **Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)** - is a statutory body under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EP Act 1990), which advises Environment, Agriculture and Northern Ireland Ministers, and the Health and Safety Commission/ Executive, and other bodies as appropriate on the release of genetically modified organisms into the environment. In particular, it advises on the exercise of powers regarding the release of GMOs under EP Act 1990, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the Genetically Modified Organisms (Deliberate Release) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993. It also advises on research needs. Website (<http://www.environment.detr.gov.uk/acre>)
- (iv) **Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises UK Health Ministers on developments in gene therapy research and their implications. It reviews and if appropriate approves individual protocols for gene therapy research. It works closely with the statutory body for medical products, the Medicines Control Agency (MCA), and with research ethics committees. Website (<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh/genetics/htm>)
- (v) **Human Genetics Advisory Commission (HGAC)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which reports to Industry and Health Ministers on issues arising from new developments in human genetics that can be expected to have wider social, ethical, and/or economic consequences, for example in relation to insurance, patents, employment and public health. It keeps under review scientific progress at the frontiers of human genetics and related fields, and advises on ways to build public confidence in, and understanding of, the new genetics. It works closely with (and has a significant degree of shared membership with) other advisory committees in the human genetics area. Web site (<http://www.dti.gov.uk/hgac>).

List A

The following bodies were established specifically to address issues arising from developments in modern genetic technology.

- (i) **Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification (ACGM)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises the Health and Safety Commission/Secretary and Ministers on all aspects of human and environmental safety of the controlled use of genetically modified organisms under the GMO (Contained Use) Regulations 1992 (based on EC Directive 90/269) as amended. ACGM focuses on safety questions in the laboratory and industrial installations. It is not involved in product approval. Website (<http://www.open.gov.uk/biotechnology.htm>)
- (ii) **Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing (ACGT)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises Health Ministers on developments in genetic testing taking account of ethical, social and scientific aspects. It establishes requirements especially in respect of efficacy and product information to be met by manufacturers and suppliers of genetic tests. Website (<http://www.open.gov.uk/biotechnology.htm>)
- (iii) **Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)** - is a statutory body under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA Act 1990) which advises Government, Agriculture and Northern Ireland Ministers and the Health and Safety Commission/Secretary, and other bodies as appropriate on the release of genetically modified organisms into the environment. In particular, it advises on the control of power regarding the release of GMOs under EPA Act 1990, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the Genetically Modified Organisms (Environ. Regulations) (England, Ireland) 1997. It also advises on research needs. Website (<http://www.environment.doh.gov.uk/acre/>)
- (iv) **Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises UK Health Ministers on developments in gene therapy research and their application. It reviews and it approves/withdraws/revokes gene therapy research. It works closely with the statutory body for medical products, the Medicines Control Agency (MCA), and with research ethics committees. Website (<http://www.open.gov.uk/biotechnology.htm>)
- (v) **Human Genetic Advisory Committee (HGAC)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which reports to Secretary and Health Ministers on issues arising from new developments in human genetics that can be expected to have wider social, ethical, and/or scientific consequences. The committee is required to consider human embryos and genetic health. It helps make review scientific progress in the domain of human genetics and related health and advises on ways to build public confidence in and understanding of the new genetics. It works closely with the UK a significant degree of shared membership with other advisory committees in the human genetics area. Website (<http://www.hdg.ac.uk/>)

(vi) **UK Xenotransplantation Interim Regulatory Authority (UKXIRA)** - advises UK Health Departments on the action necessary to regulate xenotransplantation. It provides a process through which applications to undertake xenotransplantation in humans can be considered; and assesses the scientific and other evidence for the safety, appropriateness and efficacy of any xenotransplantation and the justification for any clinical trials. Website (<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh.coinh.htm>)

(vii) **Advisory Group on Scientific Advances in Genetics (AGSAG)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises the Chief Medical Officer and the Director of Research and Development (DH) on the likely implications for public health and for the NHS of scientific advances in genetics. It also advises the NHS executive board on the establishment of innovative genetic services and their evaluation, and on the longer term development of genetic services in the light of appropriate evaluations. Website (<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh>)

List B

The following bodies are not biotechnology specific but their remits require that they already undertake a significant amount of biotechnology based work.

- (i) **Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)** [proposed] - is expected to be a non-statutory body that will advise the Food Standards Agency (or, until its establishment, Health Ministers and Agriculture Ministers) on the safety and use of animal feeds and feeding practices, with particular emphasis on protecting human health and with reference to new technical developments in the industry.
- (ii) **Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises Health and Agriculture Ministers and the Northern Ireland Office on any matters relating to the irradiation of food or to the manufacture of novel foods or foods produced by novel processes. ACNFP also provides the UK assessment body for all novel food and novel process applications submitted under regulation EC 258/97. Website (<http://www.maff.gov.uk/food/novel/acnfp.htm>)
- (iii) **Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP)** - is a statutory body under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. It advises Ministers on any matter relating to the control of pests, with an aim to protect human, animal, and plant health; to protect the environment; and to secure safe, efficient and humane methods of controlling pests. Website (<http://www.maff.gov.uk>)
- (iv) **Animal Procedures Committee (APC)** - is a statutory body which advises the Home Secretary on the use of animals in scientific procedures under the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Website (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/abcu.htm>)
- (v) **Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM)** - is an expert advisory committee which advises Health Ministers on the quality, efficacy and safety of medicines. It also advises the Medicines Control Agency (MCA) on whether new products should be granted marketing authorisation, and monitors the safety of marketed medicines. (<http://www.open.gov.uk/doh>)
- (vi) **Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC)** - advises Agriculture Ministers on the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at place of slaughter. It also advises on any legislative or other changes it considers necessary. Web address (<http://www.maff.gov.uk>)
- (vii) **Food Advisory Committee (FAC)** - is a statutory body under the Food Safety Act 1990. It advises Ministers on the exercise of powers in the Food Safety Act relating to the labeling, composition and chemical safety of food. It also advises on general matters relating to food safety, reviews and prepares reports on all matters

The following bodies are not independent of the Government but they are already independent of the Government in their own right:

- (i) **Advisory Committee on Animal Pathogens (ACAP)** (proposed) - is expected to be a non-statutory body that will advise the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on the establishment, health, safety and food safety of animal products and food processing, with particular emphasis on protecting human health and with reference to new technical developments in the industry.
- (ii) **Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)** - is a non-statutory advisory body which advises Health and Agriculture Ministers and the Northern Ireland Office on any matter relating to the introduction of food or to the manufacture of novel foods or foods produced by novel processes. ACNFP also provides the UK assessment body for all novel food and novel process applications submitted under regulation EC 258/03. Website (<http://www.maff.gov.uk/food/novel/acnfp.htm>)
- (iii) **Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP)** - is a statutory body under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. It advises Ministers on any matter relating to the control of pests, with an aim to protect human, animal, and plant health to protect the environment and to secure safe, efficient and economic methods of controlling pests. Website (<http://www.maff.gov.uk>)
- (iv) **Animal Pathogens Committee (APC)** - is a statutory body which advises the Home Secretary on the use of animals in scientific procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. Website (<http://www.homesaffairs.gov.uk/apc.htm>)
- (v) **Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM)** - is an expert advisory committee which advises Health Ministers on the quality, efficacy and safety of medicines. It also advises the Medicines Control Agency (MCA) on whether new products should be granted marketing authorisation, and monitors the safety of marketed medicines. (<http://www.mca.gov.uk/csm/>)
- (vi) **Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC)** - advises Agriculture Ministers on the welfare of farm animals on agricultural land, at market, in transit and at places of slaughter. It also advises on any legislative or other changes to animal welfare. Website (<http://www.maff.gov.uk>)
- (vii) **Food Advisory Committee (FAC)** - is a statutory body under the Food Safety Act 1990. It advises Ministers on the control of food in the Food Safety Act relating to the labelling, composition and chemical safety of food. It also advises on general matters relating to food safety, reviews and proposes reports on all matters

within its terms of reference (where necessary making recommendations for legislation). Web address (<http://www.maff.gov.uk>)

(viii) **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA)** - is a statutory body, established by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990. Its primary function under the HFE Act is to license centers that carry out *in vitro* fertilisation and donor insemination, research involving the creation of embryos, and storage of embryos and sperm. Health Ministers also look to the HFEA for advice and information on issues arising from developments in assisted conception and associated research. The HFEA also takes into account issues of safety, efficacy and ethics. The Authority regularly consults the medical and scientific professions and the national patient support groups on social and ethical issues. Website (<http://www.hfea.gov.uk>)

(ix) **Veterinary Products Committee (VPC)** - is a statutory expert body under Medicines Act 1968. It advises Agriculture and Health Ministers on the safety, quality and efficacy of veterinary medicines covered by the 1968 Act. Website (<http://www.maff.gov.uk>)

ESM Committee on Safety of Medicines

DOTS Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions

DOH Department of Health

DTI Department of Trade and Industry

FAC Food Advisory Committee

GM Genetically Modified

GMH Genetically Modified Human Organism

GMO Genetically Modified Organism

GTAC Gene Therapy Advisory Committee

HFEA Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

HFE Act Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990

HQAC Human Genetic Advisory Commission

HO Home Office

HSE Health and Safety Executive

NAC National Screening Committee

MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

MCA Medicines Control Agency

OST Office of Science and Technology

UKRA UK Veterinary Medicines Regulatory Authority

within its limits of authority (where necessary making recommendations for legislation). Web address: <http://www.maff.gov.uk>

(iv) Human Fertilisation and Embology Authority (HFEA) - is a statutory body established by the Human Fertilisation and Embology Act 1990. Its primary function under the HFE Act is to license centres that carry out in vitro fertilisation and donor insemination, and also involving the storage of embryos and oocytes of embryos and sperm. HFEA also has a role in the HFE Act for advice and information on issues arising from the operation of licensed centres and research. The HFEA also takes into account issues of safety, efficacy and ethics. The Authority regularly consults the medical and scientific professions and the general public support groups on social and ethical issues. Website: <http://www.hfea.gov.uk>

(v) Veterinary Products Committee (VPC) - is a statutory expert body under Medicines Act 1968. It advises Ministers and Health Ministers on the safety, quality and efficacy of veterinary medicines covered by the 1968 Act. Website: <http://www.maff.gov.uk>

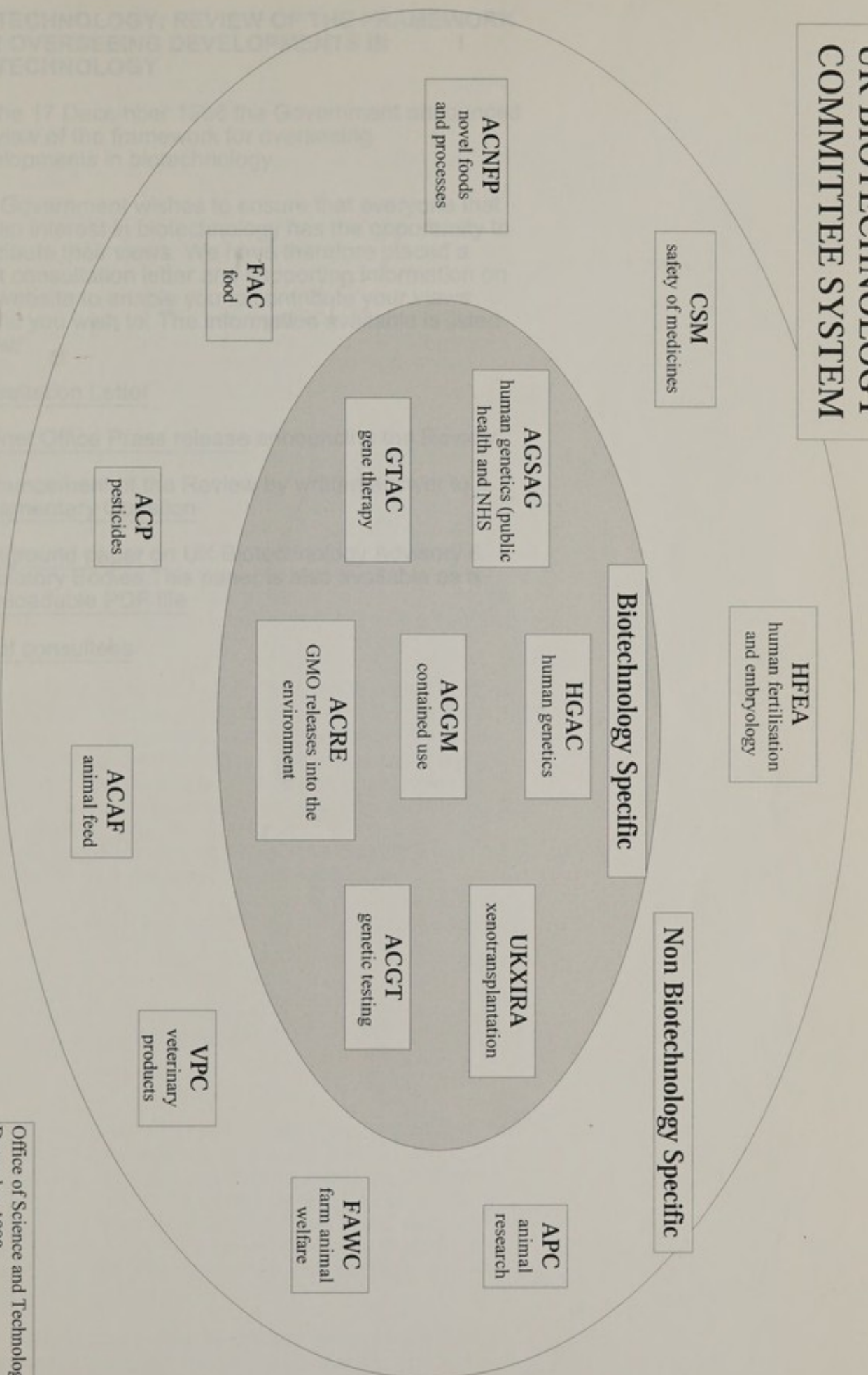
LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACAF	Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs
ACGM	Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification
ACGT	Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing
ACNFP	Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes
ACP	Advisory Committee on Pesticides
ACRE	Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment
AGSAG	Advisory Group on Scientific Advances in Genetics
APC	Animal Procedures Committee
COMA	Committee on Medical Aspects (of Food and Nutrition Policy)
COT	Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment
CSM	Committee on Safety of Medicines
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
DH	Department of Health
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
FAC	Food Advisory Committee
GM	Genetically Modified
GMM	Genetically Modified Micro-organism
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GTAC	Gene Therapy Advisory Committee
HFEA	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
HFE Act	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (1990)
HGAC	Human Genetics Advisory Commission
HO	Home Office
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
NSC	National Screening Committee
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MCA	Medicines Control Agency
OST	Office of Science and Technology
UKXIRA	UK Xenotransplantation Interim Regulatory Authority

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACAF	Advisory Committee on Animal Feeding
ACOM	Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification
ACGT	Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing
ACNP	Advisory Committee on Food Safety and Processes
ACP	Advisory Committee on Pesticides
ACRE	Advisory Committee on Research and the Environment
AGSAG	Advisory Group on Scientific Advances in Genetics
ARC	Animal Procedures Committee
COMA	Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy
COT	Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment
CSM	Committee on Safety of Medicines
DETR	Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
DH	Department of Health
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry
FAC	Food Advisory Committee
GM	Genetically Modified
GMI	Genetically Modified Micro-organism
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GTAC	Gene Therapy Advisory Committee
HFEA	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
HFE Act	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (1990)
HGAC	Human Genetics Advisory Commission
HO	Home Office
HSE	Health and Safety Executive
HSC	National Screening Committee
M/CE	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
MCA	Medicine Council Agency
OST	Office of Science and Technology
UKRA	UK Research Administration Institute Regulatory Authority

UK BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE SYSTEM



BIOTECHNOLOGY: REVIEW OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSEEING DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

On the 17 December 1998 the Government announced a review of the framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology.

The Government wishes to ensure that everyone that has an interest in biotechnology has the opportunity to contribute their views. We have therefore placed a short consultation letter and supporting information on this website to enable you to contribute your views should you wish to. The information available is listed below:

[Consultation Letter](#)

[Cabinet Office Press release](#) announcing the Review

[Announcement of the Review by written answer to a Parliamentary Question](#)

[Background paper on UK Biotechnology Advisory & Regulatory Bodies](#). This paper is also available as a [downloadable PDF file](#)

[List of consultees](#)

Ministers will consider the results of the completed review, which will include the results of this consultation exercise, in conjunction with the outcome of the Government's public consultation on the framework. The purpose of the public consultation on the framework, which is a separate exercise, is to engage people in a discussion about how the biological sciences are developing, and the appropriate Governmental response to that. The Government is using the People's Panel as a basis for that consultation.

I should be grateful if you would forward your responses, by post, to:

Mr Kari Lehto
Office of Science and Technology
Attn: House 94-95 Petty France
London
SW1H 9BT

Alternatively you may wish to E-mail your response to Mr Lehto at kari.lehto@dti.gov.uk. Should you wish to discuss the letter or have any further query regarding this exercise please contact Mr Lehto by telephone on 0171 225 3000. It would be most helpful if you could respond by the end of January 1999. However if there is a particular reason why this deadline cannot be met perhaps you would contact us.

We may wish, in the future, to publish some of the views arising from this consultation exercise. Should you wish your views to be treated in confidence please make this clear in any paper you submit to us.

BIOTECHNOLOGY: REVIEW OF THE FRAMEWORK
FOR OVERSEEING DEVELOPMENTS IN
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On the 17 December 1995 the Government announced
a review of the framework for overseeing
developments in biotechnology.

The Government wishes to ensure that overseas firms
has an interest in biotechnology has the opportunity to
contribute their views. We have therefore placed a
short consultation letter and supporting information on
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below.

Consultation Letter

Cabinet Office Press release announcing the Review

Announcement of the Review by written answer to a
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Background paper on UK Biotechnology Advisory &
Regulatory Bodies. This paper is also available as a
downloadable PDF file

List of consultees

Office of Science and Technology

Room G/8 Albany House 94-98 Petty France London
SW1H 9ST

Telephone 0171 215 5000 Direct Line 0171 271 2086 Fax
0171 271 2028

21 December 1998

Dear Consultee,

**REVIEW OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSEEING
DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY**

On the 17 December 1998 the Government announced a review of the framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology. The purpose of the review and its terms of reference are set out in the attached press notice and answer to a parliamentary question (PQ).

We would welcome your views on the current framework. As background I am enclosing a note giving information on the advisory and regulatory committees that deal with biotechnology. The attached list of questions sets out the areas that the review will focus on. To help officials in the analysis of responses we would be grateful if you would use these issues as a focus for your comments. If, however, there are other points you wish to make on the framework that are not covered by the questions, please feel free to do so.

Ministers will consider the results of the completed review, which will include the results of this consultation exercise, in conjunction with the outcome of the Government's public consultation on the biosciences. The purpose of the public consultation on the biosciences, which is a separate exercise, is to engage people in a discussion about how the biological sciences are developing, and the appropriate Government response to that. The Government is using the People's Panel as a basis for that consultation.

I should be grateful if you would forward your responses, by post, to:

Mr Kobina Lokko
Office of Science and Technology
Albany House 94-98 Petty France
London
SW1H 9ST

Alternatively you may wish to E - mail your response to Mr Lokko at kobina.lokko@osct.dti.gov.uk. Should you wish to discuss this letter or have any further query regarding this exercise please contact Mr Lokko by telephone on 0171 271 2086. It would be most helpful if you could respond by the end of January 1999. However if there is a particular reason why this deadline cannot be met perhaps you would contact us.

We may wish, in the future, to publish some of the views arising from this consultation exercise. Should you wish your views to be treated in confidence please make this clear in any paper you submit to us.

Office of Science and Technology
Room G8 Albany House 24-26 Petty France London
SW1H 9ET
Telephone 0171 215 8000 Direct Line 0171 215 2028 Fax
0171 215 2028

21 December 1995

Dear Committee,

REVIEW OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSEEING DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

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so.

Ministers will consider the results of the completed review,
which will include the results of this consultation exercise, in
connection with the outcome of the Government's public
consultation on the biosecurity. The purpose of the public
consultation on the biosecurity, which is a separate
exercise, is to engage people in a discussion about how the
biological sciences are developing, and the appropriate
Government response to that. The Government is using the
People's Panel as a basis for that consultation.

I should be grateful if you would forward your response, by
post, to:

Mr Robin Loke
Office of Science and Technology
Albany House 24-26 Petty France
London
SW1H 9ET

Alternatively you may wish to E-mail your response to Mr
Loke at robin.loke@stg.gov.uk. Should you wish to
discuss this letter or have any further query regarding this
exercise please contact Mr Loke by telephone on 0171
215 2028. It would be most helpful if you could respond by
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reason why this deadline cannot be met perhaps you would
contact us.

We may wish, in the future, to publish some of the views
expressed from this consultation exercise. Should you wish
your views to be treated in confidence please make this
clear in any paper you submit to us.

The Government wishes to ensure that everyone that has an interest in biotechnology has the opportunity to contribute their views. I enclose a list of the bodies we are consulting as part of the review. If you know of further bodies who might wish to contribute their views would you please inform the OST contact Mr Kobina Lokko.

Yours sincerely

Pat Sellers

Joint Director, Science in Government Directorate
Office of Science & Technology

REVIEW OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSEEING DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Review will focus on the following questions: ·

- what gaps exist in coverage of biotechnology by the existing committees and how might these be remedied? ·
- what overlaps exist and are they justified? If not, how might they be remedied? ·
- could the current system be structured in a more simple way? ·
- how could the system for providing advice to Government be made more transparent? ·
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- is the framework flexible enough to cope with the rapid development of this technology which is likely in the future? ·
- does the public have confidence in the system currently in place?

We would welcome your views on these questions. If, however, there are other points you wish to make on the framework that are not covered by these questions, please feel free to do so.

Office of Science & Technology
21 December 1998

The Government wishes to ensure that everyone that has an interest in biotechnology has the opportunity to contribute their views. I enclose a list of the parties we are considering as part of the review. If you know of others who might wish to contribute their views, please let me know. I will contact them as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Pat Sefton

Joint Director, Science in Government Directorate
Office of Science & Technology

REVIEW OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSEEING DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Review will focus on the following questions:

- What gaps exist in coverage of biotechnology by the existing committees and how might these be remedied?
- What overlaps exist and are they justified? If not, how might they be remedied?
- Could the current system be structured in a more simple way?
- How could the system for providing advice to Government be made more transparent?
- Are ethical and other wider issues addressed fully and properly within the current system?
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We would welcome your views on these questions. If, however, there are other points you wish to make on the framework that are not covered by these questions, please feel free to do so.

Office of Science & Technology
21 December 1998

CABINET OFFICE NEWS RELEASE CAB 273/98

**CUNNINGHAM ANNOUNCES GOVERNMENT REVIEW
OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSEEING
DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY**

17 December 1998

Minister for the Cabinet Office Jack Cunningham announced today a review of the framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology and genetic modification. The review will look at the range of committees established to provide the Government with expert advice and to regulate in this area. It will be co-ordinated jointly by officials from the Cabinet Office and the Office of Science and Technology, and will aim to ensure that the Government is receiving the best possible advice and that the system is flexible enough to respond to developments in this area in the future.

Announcing the review Dr Cunningham said:
Biotechnology is an exciting area of scientific advance which has the potential to transform our lives. Britain is a world leader in the science and its exploitation and we have a significant biotechnology industry which has the potential to be a major wealth creator and provider of high quality jobs. But much of this is new technology and Government has an important role to play in ensuring that the public is protected from any risks it brings. The products and processes created by biotechnology must be rigorously assessed and carefully regulated to ensure that they are safe to use and that they do not damage people or the environment.

"A complex framework of regulatory and advisory bodies is already in place to advise Government on the technology, and to regulate new biotechnology products and processes before they enter into use. We have decided to carry out a through review of this framework in order to be sure that the Government is receiving the best possible advice; and that the system is comprehensive and robust, but flexible enough to respond to the expected developments in this area in the future. This review will address any gaps or unnecessary overlaps in our current framework and will also consider other important questions such as whether our systems could be simplified and made more transparent, and the ways in which we consider ethical and stakeholder interests".

Dr Cunningham also made clear that the Government was keen to ensure that everyone with an interest in biotechnology had the opportunity to contribute their views which should be sent to the Office of Science and Technology by the end of January 1999.

In conclusion, Dr Cunningham said that the Government was already engaged in a public consultation on developments in the biosciences due to report in Spring 1999. He confirmed that this review, of the framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology, would take

CABINET OFFICE NEWS RELEASE CAS 3789 CURRINGHAM ANNOUNCES GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF THE FRAMEWORK FOR OVERSEEING DEVELOPMENTS IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

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Minister for the Cabinet Office Jack Curringham announced today a review of the framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology and genetic modification. The review will look at the range of committees established to provide the Government with expert advice and to regulate in this area. It will be co-ordinated jointly by officials from the Cabinet Office and the Office of Science and Technology, and will aim to ensure that the Government is receiving the best possible advice and that the system is flexible enough to respond to developments in this area in the future.

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"A complex framework of regulatory and advisory bodies is already in place to advise Government on the technology and to regulate new biotechnology products and processes before they enter into use. We have decided to carry out a thorough review of this framework in order to be sure that the Government is receiving the best possible advice, and that the system is comprehensive and robust, but flexible enough to respond to the expected developments in this area in the future. This review will address any gaps or unnecessary overlap in our current framework and will also consider other important questions such as whether our system could be simplified and made more transparent, and the ways in which we consider ethics and stakeholder interests."

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In conclusion, Dr Curringham said that the Government was already engaged in a public consultation on developments in the biotechnology area to report in Spring 1989. He confirmed that this review of the framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology would take

place in the same timescale.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. Jack Cunningham chairs the Ministerial Cabinet Committee on Biotechnology and Genetic Modification (MISC 6).

2. The review of the Government's framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology was announced today in a Written Answer to a Parliamentary Question from Phil Hope MP for Corby.

3. Officials from the Cabinet Office and the Office of Science and Technology will co-ordinate the review and will be looking at the following questions: - -

- what gaps exist in coverage of biotechnology by the existing committees and how might these be remedied? -
- what overlaps exist and are they justified? If not, how might they be remedied? -
- could the current system be structured in a more simple way? -
- how could the system for providing advice to Government be made more transparent? -
- are ethical and other wider issues addressed fully and properly within the current system? -
- are stakeholders given the appropriate opportunities to make their views known? For example, would an environmental stakeholder forum be a valuable addition to the current framework? -
- is the framework flexible enough to cope with the rapid development of this technology which is likely in the future? -
- does the public have confidence in the system currently in place?

4. The Government is seeking the views of the existing regulator and advisory bodies and of outside bodies with an interest in this area. It would also welcome views from the public. Responses should be sent by January 29 1999 to -

Mr Kobina Lokko,
Office of Science and Technology,
Albany House,
Petty France,
London, SW1H 9ST.
Email: kobina.lokko@osct.gov.uk

5. Ministers will consider this review in parallel with the emerging conclusions of the Government's public consultation on developments in the biosciences and expect to make a formal announcement of the outcome in Spring 1999.

6. The public consultation on the biosciences, which is a distinct and separate exercise, is to explore the

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Mr Robert Lofko,
Office of Science and Technology,
Aldgate House,
Fleet Street,
London, EC4A 3DF
Email: robert.lofko@ost.gov.uk

5. Ministers will consider this review in parallel with the emerging conclusions of the Government's public consultation on developments in the biosciences and expect to make a formal announcement of the outcome in Spring 1999.

6. The public consultation on the biosciences, which is a distinct and separate exercise, is to explore the

perceptions of people not currently engaged in the debate about the biological sciences. It will, using the People's Panel, find out what their information needs are, and how Government and its advisers can best meet those needs. Media enquiries and the public consultation should be directed to Sarah Goodall at DTI on 0171 215 5377.

7. Media enquiries about the Government's review of the framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology should be made to the number given below.

Issued by:

Cabinet Office
Press Office
70 Whitehall

The Government believes that the principles of human rights must be the first priority in regulating biotechnology. The impact on the wider world and the environment must also be thoroughly examined, and the ethical issues raised by biotechnology fully examined. At the same time, the Government believes that biotechnology has the potential to offer significant opportunities for improving the competitiveness of the economy and the quality of life in terms of health, agriculture, food and environmental protection, and that government should facilitate technological development without imposing unjustified burdens on the biotechnology industry.

The Government seeks to have in place a system which gives the widest advice and proportionate regulation, and is at the same time as simple and transparent as possible. It has the flexibility to respond to the fast moving developments in the technology and to those concerns, and that commands the respect of users and the public. The review will assess the current system in the light of these criteria. It will seek to address the following questions:

- what advice is available to biotechnology in the biotechnology community, and how large should be regulated?
- what evidence exists and how they should be regulated?
- could the current system be improved in a more simple way?
- how could the system be made more transparent?
- are ethical and other issues raised by biotechnology and properly within the current system?
- are stakeholders given the opportunity to make their views known? For example, would an international biotechnology forum be a valuable and useful development?

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Issued by:
Cabinet Office
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PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION

17 December 1998

To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office to set out how the Government proposes to oversee developments in biotechnology and genetic modification, following the establishment of the Ministerial group on this subject.

The Government is initiating a thorough review of the framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology, focusing particularly on the range of committees that have been established to provide the Government with expert advice and to regulate in this area. The Government is already engaged in a public consultation on developments in the biosciences which is due to report in Spring 1999. The review of the framework for overseeing developments in biotechnology, to be carried out by officials, will take place on the same timescale.

The Government believes that the protection of human health must be the first priority in regulating biotechnology. The impact on the environment and on biodiversity must also be thoroughly assessed, and the ethical issues raised by biotechnology fully taken into account. At the same time, the Government believes that this technology has the potential to offer enormous opportunities for improving the competitiveness of the economy and the quality of life in terms of health, agriculture, food and environmental protection, and that regulation should facilitate technological development by not imposing unjustified burdens on the biotechnology industry.

The Government seeks to have in place a system that provides sound advice and proportionate regulation and is at the same time as simple and transparent as possible; that has the flexibility to respond to the fast moving developments in the technology and to public concerns; and that commands the respect of users and the public. The review will assess the current system in the light of these criteria. It will seek to address the following questions:

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- does the public have confidence in the system currently in place?

The views will be sought of the existing regulatory and advisory bodies themselves, and of outside bodies with an interest in this area. The Government would also welcome views from the public.

The Cabinet Office and the Office of Science and Technology will jointly co-ordinate the review. The Government will make an announcement on its outcome.

Association of Chief Pharmacists
 Association of Clinical Biochemists
 Association of Clinical Cytogeneticists
 Association of Clinical Pathologists
 Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales
 Association of Crime Forces Adults
 Association of Genetic Nurses and Counselling
 Association of Independent Crop Consultants
 Association of Medical Research Charities
 Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
 Association of Management and Professional Staff
 Bacterium Institute
 Baptist Union of Great Britain
 Barons' Society
 Bioindustry Association
 Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
 Board of Deputies of British Jews
 Board of Social Responsibility
 British Cancer Care
 British Cancer Research Trust
 British Chambers of Commerce
 British Association for the Advancement of Science
 British Association of Paediatric Nurses
 British Association of Social Workers
 British Council of Churches Trust Limited
 British Council of Protestant and Christian Churches
 British Jewellers Association
 British Lawn Foundation
 British National Association
 British Institute of Agricultural Consultants
 British In Vitro Diagnostic Association
 B.V. British Lawyers Association
 British Medical Association
 British Nurses' Association (Northern Ireland Branch)
 British Pharmacy Union
 British Pharmacists' Advisory Service
 British Psychological Society
 British Retail Consortium
 British Society of Plant Breeders
 British Tobacco Growers' Society
 British Society for Human Genetics
 British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection
 CAAAT

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LIST OF CONSULTEES

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs
All Party Parliamentary Disablement Group
All Party Parliamentary Human Genetics Group
All Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group
All Party Parliamentary Reproductive Health Group
Alzheimer's Disease Society
Association for Improvements in Maternity Services
Association for Public Health
Association for Welfare of Children in Hospital
Association of British Health-Care Industries
Association of British Insurers
Association of British Neurologists
Association of Chief Pharmacists
Association of Clinical Biochemists
Association of Clinical Cytogeneticists
Association of Clinical Pathologists
Association of Community Health Councils for England and Wales
Association of Cystic Fibrosis Adults
Association of Genetic Nurses and Counselling
Association of Independent Crop Consultants
Association of Medical Research Charities
Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Association of Management and Professional Staff
Babraham Institute
Baptist Union of Great Britain
Biococial Society
BioIndustry Association
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
Board of Deputies of British Jews
Board of Social Responsibility
Breast Cancer Care
Breast Cancer Research Trust
British Agrochemical Association
British Association for the Advancement of Science
British Association of Paediatric Nurses
British Association of Social Workers
British Council of Churches Trust Limited
British Council of Protestant and Christian Churches
British Diabetic Association
British Heart Foundation
British Humanist Association
British Institute of Agricultural Consultants
British In Vitro Diagnostics Association
BLWA (British Labware Association)
British Medical Association
British Medical Association (Northern Ireland Branch)
British Pharma Group
British Pregnancy Advisory Service
British Psychological Society
British Retail Consortium
British Society of Plant Breeders
British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society
British Society for Human Genetics
British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection
CAMR

Cancer Relief Macmillian Fund
Cancer Research Campaign
Cancer Research Campaign, Genetics Research Group

Cancerlink
Cardiomyopathy Association
Catholic Bishops Joint Committee on Bio-Ethical Issues
Catholic Child Welfare Council
CBI Wales
Centre for Family Research
Centre for Health Services Research
Centre for Human Genetics
Chartered Institute of Environmental Health
Chemical Industries Association
Chief Rabbi
Children in Wales
Christian Medical Fellowship
Church of Ireland
Clinical Genetics Society
Clinical Molecular Genetics Society
Clinical Pathology Accreditation (UK) Ltd
Community Practitioners' Health Visitors Association
Committee of Church and Nation, Church of Scotland
Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals
Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer
Products and the Environment
Compassion in World Farming
Confederation of British Industry
Consumers' Association
Consumers for Ethics in Research
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Council for Disabled Children
Council for Mosques: United Kingdom and Eire
Council for Professions Supplementary to Medicine
Country Landowners Association
Countryside Commission for Wales
Countryside Council for Wales
Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust
Data Protection Registrar
Doctors who Respect Human Life
Dystonia Society
Economic and Social Research Council
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
English Nature
Euro-Ataxia
European Diagnostics Manufacturers' Association
Faculty of Advocates
Faculty of Occupational Medicine
Faculty of Public Health Medicine
Family Heart Association
Family Planning Association
Farm and Food Society
Farm Animal Welfare Council
Farmers' Union of Wales
Food and Drink Federation
Free Church Federal Council
Freidreich's Ataxia Group
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Earth, Cymru
Gauchers Association
Gene Aid

Genewatch
General Consumer Council for Northern Ireland
General Council for the Bar
General Medical Council
General Synod of the Church of England
Genetics Forum
Genetics Interest Group
Government Panel on Sustainable Development
Greater London Association of Community Health
Councils
Green Alliance
Greenpeace
Guild of Catholic Doctors
Haemochromatosis Society
Health and Safety Commission
Health Education Authority
Health Promotion Agency
Health Promotion Wales
Health Visitors' Association
Huntington's Chorea Association
Huntington's Disease Association
Imperial Cancer Research Fund
Institute of Biology
Institute of Biomedical Science
Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research
Institute of Grocery Distributors
Institute of Health Record Information Management
Institute of Medical Ethics
Institute of Science
Institution of Professionals, Managers and Specialists
International Fund for Animal Welfare
Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation
Joint Medical Genetics Co-ordinating Committee
Kings Fund
Laboratory of the Government Chemist
Law Society
Law Society for Northern Ireland
Law Society for Scotland
LIFE
Long Term Medical Conditions Alliance
Malt Distillers' Association of Scotland
Manufacturing, Science and Finance
Medical Defence Union Ltd
Medical Genetics Service for Wales
Medical Protection Society Ltd
Medical Research Council
Medical Research Council - Human Biochemical
Genetics Unit
Medical Research Council - Human Genetics Unit
Medical Women's Federation
Medico-Legal Society
Methodist Church
Methodist Church of Ireland
Microbiological Advisory Committee
Mother's Union
Motor Neurone Disease Association
Myotonic Dystrophy Support Group
National Anti-Vivisection Society
National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare
National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts
National Blood Authority

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 Melt District Association of Scotland
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 Law Society for Scotland
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 Laboratory of the Government Chemist
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 Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation
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 Institute of Science
 Institute of Medical Ethics
 Institute of Health Record Information Management
 Institute of Grocery Distributors
 Institute of Gravel and Environmental Research
 Institute of Biomedical Science
 Institute of Biology
 Imperial Cancer Research Fund
 Huntington's Disease Association
 Huntington's Chorea Association
 Health Visitor Association
 Health Promotion Wales
 Health Promotion Agency
 Health Education Authority
 Health and Safety Commission
 Haemochromatosis Society
 Guild of Catholic Doctors
 Gynaecology
 Green Alliance
 Courts
 Greater London Association of Community Health
 Government Panel on Sustainable Environment
 Genetic Interest Group
 Genetic Future
 Genetic Society of the Church of England
 Genetic Medical Council
 Genetic Council for the Bar
 Genetic Counsellor Society for Northern Ireland

National Board of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Quality Assurance Group
National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting for Northern Ireland
National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting for Scotland
National Childbirth Trust
National Childbirth Trust (Northern Ireland)
National Consumer Council
National Council for Voluntary Organisations
National Council for Women of Great Britain
National Council of Hindu Temples
National Farmers' Union
National Farmers' Union of Scotland
National Federation of Consumer Groups
National Federation of Women's Institutes
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control
National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)
National Pharmaceutical Association
National Screening Committee
National Sickle Cell Programme
Natural Environment Research Council
Neurofibromatosis Association
NFU Wales
NHS Trust Federation
Northern Ireland Council for Graduate Medical Education
Northern Ireland Regional Genetics Centre
Nuffield Council of Bioethics
Nuffield Dept of Child Health
Nuffield Foundation
Parents in Need Support Group (PINS)
Patients Association
Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland
Pregnancy Advisory Service
Presbyterian Board of Social Witness
Progress Educational Trust
Psoriatic Arthroplasty Alliance
Public Health Alliance
Public Health Laboratory Service
Quaker Ethics and Genetics Network
Regional Directors of Public Health
Research Defence Society
Round Table on Sustainable Development
Royal College of General Practitioners
Royal College of General Practitioners (Northern Ireland)
Royal College of Midwives
Royal College of Midwives (NI Branch)
Royal College of Nursing
Royal College of Nursing, Belfast
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (NI Branch)
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Scottish Executive
Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
Royal College of Pathologists
Royal College of Pathologists, Scottish Affairs Committee

Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
Royal College of Physicians, London
Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
Royal College of Psychiatrists
Royal College of Psychiatrists (NI)
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
Royal College of Surgeons of England
Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution
Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
Royal Institute of Public Health & Hygiene
Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain
Royal Society of Chemistry
Royal Society of Edinburgh
Royal Society of Medicine
Royal Society for Nature Conservation
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Scotch Whisky Association
Scottish Affairs Committee of the Faculty of Public
Health Medicine
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Agricultural Contractors Association
Scottish Association of Health Councils
Scottish Biomedical Association
Scottish Biomedical Research Trust
Scottish Consumer Council
Scottish Corn Trade Association
Scottish Crop Research Institute
Scottish Flour Millers Association
Scottish Food Quality Certification
Scottish Green Party
Scottish Grocers' Federation
Scottish Health Visitors Association
Scottish Huntingdon's Association
Scottish Law Commission
Scottish Natural Heritage
Scottish Neonatal & Paediatric Group
Scottish Pharmacists Cancer Group
Scottish Potato Trade Association
Scottish Seed and Nursery Trade Association
Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Link
Seriously ill for Medical Research (SIMR)
Sheffield Institute of Biotechnological Law & Ethics
Sickle Cell Association
Sickle Cell Society
Sikh Association
Society for General Microbiology
Society for the Protection of Unborn Children
Society of Public Health
Society of Religion and Technology Project, Church of
Scotland
Soil Association
Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee
Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights
Standing Group on Health Technology
Standing Medical Advisory Committee
Standing Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee
Stillbirth & Neonatal Death Society
Trades Union Congress
UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs
UK Association of Cancer Registries

UK External Quality Assurance Scheme for Molecular Genetics
Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues
United Kingdom Co-ordinating Committee for Cancer Research
UKROFS
VTSC Growers Association
Wales Medical Genetic Service
Wales Office for Research & Development for Health & Social Care
Wales Wildlife Link
Wellcome Trust
Welsh Consumer Council
Welsh Development Agency
Welsh Institute for Health and Social Care
Welsh National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting
Welsh Nursing and Midwifery Committee
Welsh Scientific Advisory Committee
Women's Environmental Network
Women's Farming Union
Women's Nationwide Cancer Control Campaign
Women's National Commission
World Wide Fund for Nature

UK BIOTECHNOLOGY ADVISORY AND REGULATORY BODIES

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)
Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification (ACGM)
Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing (ACGT)
Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)
Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP)
Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment (ACRE)
Advisory Group on Scientific Advances in Genetics (AGSAG)
Animal Procedures Committee (APC)
Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM)
Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC)
Food Advisory Committee (FAC)
Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC)
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA)
Human Genetics Advisory Commission (HGAC)
UK Xenotransplantation Interim Regulatory Authority (UKXIRA)
Veterinary Products Committee (VPC)

