

Terms of Reference

To advise at the request of:

- Department of Health
- Food Standards Agency
- Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
- Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Department of Transport, Local Government and the Regions
- Health and Safety Executive
- Health Protection Agency
- Chemicals Regulation Directorate
- Veterinary Medicines Directorate
- Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
- Home Office
- Scottish Executive
- National Assembly for Wales
- Northern Ireland Executive
- Other Government Departments and Agencies

To assess and advise on the toxic risk to man of substances which are:

- used or proposed to be used as food additives, or used in such a way that they might contaminate food through their use or natural occurrence in agriculture, including horticulture and veterinary practice or in the distribution, storage, preparation, processing or packaging of food;
- used or proposed to be used or manufactured or produced in industry, agriculture, food storage or any other workplace;
- used or proposed to be used as household goods or toilet goods and preparations;
- used or proposed to be used as drugs, when advice is requested by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency;
- used or proposed to be used or disposed of in such a way as to result in pollution of the environment.

To advise on important general principles or new scientific discoveries in connection with toxic risks, to co-ordinate with other bodies concerned with the assessment of toxic risks and to present recommendations for toxicity testing.