

COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Public Consultation on Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees and Councils

Introduction

1. A consultation document has recently been published on a revised 'Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees and Councils' (CoPSAC). The CoPSAC applies to science advisory committees and councils affiliated to Government that provide independent expert advice to facilitate decision making.
2. The consultation takes views on amendments proposed to bring the CoPSAC up to date (the CoPSAC has not been revised since 2011). The revised version is based on feedback from Committee and Council stakeholders and a wider consultation is now taking place. The closing date for this is the 8th October.
3. The consultation is aimed at academics and other experts who provide science advice to government. It seeks views on the independence, transparency and diversity and inclusion aspects of the CoPSAC in particular. COT Members may have been circulated this already. However, it would also be helpful to discuss this as a Committee.
4. The revised Code of Practice is attached at Annex A

Questions for the Committee

5. Members are asked for their comments on whether the revised CoPSAC is sufficient in guiding councils and committees on ensuring:
 - independence (chapter 6, section 6.1 and references throughout)
 - transparency, including publications (chapter 6, sections 6.2,6.3, 6.6 and references throughout)
 - diversity and inclusion (chapter 2, sections 2.2, 2.4 and references throughout)

And for any other comments they may have. Comments will then be submitted to the consultation.

Secretariat

August 2021

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**Public Consultation on Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory
Committees and Councils**

The revised text is available from:

[Revised code of practice](#)

The current text is available from

[Scientific advisory committees: code of practice](#)

Secretariat

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