

**Consultation on the draft update to the National Implementation Plan for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Date: 19th March 2021

We are the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We’re responsible for improving and protecting the environment, growing the green economy and supporting our world-class food, farming and fishing industries.

We work closely with our 33 agencies and arm’s length bodies on our ambition to make our air purer, our water cleaner, our land greener and our food more sustainable. Our mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.



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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

POPs@defra.gov.uk

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# Consultation – an overview

We want to know what you think about our 2021 draft update to the UK National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

The update covers “new POPs”, which have been more recently listed under the Stockholm Convention and were not covered in our last NIP update in 2017. It sets out the information available to us for these substances and our plans to monitor and eliminate them in the future. It also provides a short update on the older POPs and actions taken since the last NIP update.

# Why we are consulting

Defra, on behalf of the Devolved Administrations, has produced a draft update to the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for POPs. The updated draft NIP sets out how the UK has implemented its obligations under the Stockholm Convention to which the UK is a party. This includes steps to eliminate or reduce the impact of POPs on the environment by assessing the presence of a new POPs substance and, where appropriate, sets out further actions to achieve this aim.

An update is required periodically to explain how changes to the Stockholm Convention have been implemented, including when new POPs substances are listed for restriction, elimination or reduction, or the elimination of unintentional production.

This NIP update also reports on delivery of commitments made in earlier plans and sets out further work proposed. This will contribute to the delivery of Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan, the Welsh Minister’s Natural Resources Policy, the Environment Strategy for Scotland, and the goals of the Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland, to protect and enhance the environment for future generations. Strategies for clean air and resources and waste also complement the actions and plans set out.

Defra and the Devolved Administrations want to consider the views of all stakeholders with an interest. This will include the chemicals industry, manufacturers of goods, importers, exporters, recyclers, users, re-users, the waste industry, academics, environmental / health organisations and the public.

Respondents can provide views on future plans and any additional information and evidence that supports our aim to eliminate or reduce the impact of POPs in the environment.

The initial UK NIP was published on the Stockholm Convention website in 2007. All subsequent publications have been updates to this. This update has been drafted by the four governments of the UK and relevant arm’s length bodies. A formal consultation will enable due consideration of the range of views before a final revised NIP is published on the Stockholm Convention website later in 2021.

You can submit your views using this survey. Should you have any issues or questions, please do get in touch via

Defra's Persistent Organic Pollutants mailbox POPs@defra.gov.uk or

Defra’s Consultation Team mailbox consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

To complete the consultation please answer the questions below, save your responses in a suitable format, and send them to consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

or:

Consultation Coordinator

2nd floor Foss House

Kings Pool

1-2 Peasholme Green

York YO1 7PX

Responses must be submitted by 14th May 2021.

We strongly recommend that you view the related documents on GOV.UK if possible, before starting the consultation questions. This includes the revised draft NIP document, which the consultation questions relate to directly.

Thank you for taking the time to provide your views on the draft NIP update 2021.

# Introduction

### Question 1: What is your name?

### Question 2: What is your email address?

### Question 3: What is your organisation?

### Question 4: Would you like your response to be confidential?

Please answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’, and if ‘yes’ please state your reason.

### More information on confidentiality and data protection information

1. A summary of responses to this consultation will be published on the Government website at: [www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra). An annex to the consultation summary will list all organisations that responded but will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

 1.1 Defra may publish the content of your response to this consultation to make it available to the public without your personal name and private contact details (e.g. home address, email address, etc).

1.2 If you click on ‘Yes’ in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, you are asked to state clearly what information you would like to be kept as confidential and explain your reasons for confidentiality. The reason for this is that information in responses to this consultation may be subject to release to the public or other parties in accordance with the access to information law (these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances. In view of this, your explanation of your reasons for requesting confidentiality for all or part of your response would help us balance these obligations for disclosure against any obligation of confidentiality. If we receive a request for the information that you have provided in your response to this consultation, we will take full account of your reasons for requesting confidentiality of your response, but we cannot guarantee that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.

 1.3 If you click on ‘No’ in response to the question asking if you would like anything in your response to be kept confidential, we will be able to release the content of your response to the public, but we won’t make your personal name and private contact details publicly available.

 1.4 There may be occasions when Defra will share the information you provide in response to the consultation, including any personal data with external analysts. This is for the purposes of consultation response analysis and provision of a report of the summary of responses only.

1.5 This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office “Consultation Principles” and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>.

 1.6 If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation Coordinator, Defra

2nd Floor, Foss House, Kings Pool,

1-2 Peasholme Green, York, YO1 7PX

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

# New POPs listed in Stockholm Convention Annexes A and B

This NIP update provides a summary of information on historic production and use, the current legal position, information on stockpiles and waste and information on monitoring. It is written for a general audience and provides links and references for more detailed information.

### Question 5: How do you judge the quantity of information provided in the NIP to inform you about the current baseline for decaBDE?

* Far too little?
* Too little?
* Just right?
* Too much?
* Far too much?

If you have any comments, please provide them here:

### Question 6: How do you judge the quantity of information provided in the NIP to inform you about the current baseline for SCCPs?

* Far too little?
* Too little?
* Just right?
* Too much?
* Far too much?

If you have any comments, please provide them here:

### Question 7: How do you judge the quantity of information provided in the NIP to inform you about the current baseline for dicofol?

* Far too little?
* Too little?
* Just right?
* Too much?
* Far too much?

If you have any comments, please provide them here:

### Question 8: How do you judge the quantity of information provided in the NIP to inform you about the current baseline for PFOA?

* Far too little?
* Too little?
* Just right?
* Too much?
* Far too much?

If you have any comments, please provide them here:

# New POPs listed in Stockholm Convention Annex C

HCBD was listed in Annex A in 2015. In 2017, at COP 8, it was added to Annex C and the country baseline section of the draft NIP provides further information relevant to this listing.

### Question 9: Do you agree with the approach we are taking to reduce or eliminate releases from the unintentional production of HCBD?

Please answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’, and if ‘no’, please explain your answer and provide any relevant evidence if you have it.

# POPs in waste

A recent study about POPs in waste electrical and electronic equipment detailed on page 25 supports the work of waste managers in managing the presence of POPs. It also supports the waste enforcement actions of the competent authorities by identifying the electrical and electronic equipment most at risk of containing flame retardant POPs. We do not have the same understanding for all waste streams.

### Question 10: How do we develop the same level of understanding we have for electrical and electronic equipment for other, less well-defined waste streams such as soft furnishings and demolition waste?

Please answer here:

# POPs emissions

On page 39 under MMEI we explain that the inventories show that the annual emission rates of dioxins and furans (PCDD/Fs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and hexachlorobenzene (HCB) in the UK have declined significantly between 1990 and 2017. However, the rate of decline in annual emission totals has slowed down in recent years with a levelling off of annual emission totals.

### Question 11: As the trend shows that emissions are declining and levelling off for the above chemicals, are there any further measures that can be taken by the UK Government to facilitate further reduction in these emissions?

Please answer ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and if ‘yes’, please describe what measures you feel could be taken and provide any supporting evidence if you have it.

# Improving our understanding of POPs

We continue to undertake research to fill in the gaps in our understanding of POPs, where they are and how we reduce their impact.

### Question 12: What are the priorities for research to better understand the impacts of POPs on the environment?

Please answer here:

# Future actions for POPs

The NIPupdate sets out an action plan for all POPs.

### Question 13: Do you agree with the approach to monitoring we are taking over the next few years, as set out in our summary of future actions for POPs in NIP Annex III – specifically monitoring actions 3, 12 and 14?

* Completely agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

If you agree with some or all elements of the approach, what do you particularly agree with and why?

If you disagree with some or all elements of the approach, what specifically do you disagree with and why?

### Question 14: Do you agree with the approach we are taking to eliminate POPs over the next few years as set out in our summary of future actions for POPs in NIP Annex III – specifically elimination actions 1, 6, 7, 9 and 15?

* Completely agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

If you agree with some or all elements of the approach, what do you particularly agree with and why?

If you disagree with some or all elements of the approach, what specifically do you disagree with and why?

### Question 15: Do you agree with the approach we are taking to research over the next few years, as set out in our summary of future actions for POPs in Annex III – specifically research actions 2, 8, 10, 11 and 13?

* Completely agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

If you agree with some or all elements of the approach, what do you particularly agree with and why?

If you disagree with some or all elements of the approach, what specifically do you disagree with and why?

### Question 16: Do you agree with the approach we are taking to waste management over the next few years, as set out in our summary of future actions for POPs in NIP Annex III – specifically waste management actions 4 and 5?

* Completely agree
* Agree
* Neither agree nor disagree
* Disagree
* Strongly disagree

If you agree with some or all elements of the approach, what do you particularly agree with and why?

If you disagree with some or all elements of the approach, what specifically do you disagree with and why?

# Invitation to provide further comments on the NIP update

The views of all stakeholders on the UK draft NIP update are important to us. Please provide us with any further comments or views on any aspect of the updated NIP in this section.

### Question 17: Is there anything else you would like to comment on or provide information on to support this NIP update?

Please provide comments and information here:

# Consultee feedback on the survey

Dear Consultee,

Thank you for taking time to participate in this survey. It would be appreciated if you could provide us with an insight into how you view this method of contributing to the consultation without the use of the consultation tool, and any areas of this method that you feel are in need of improvement, by completing our feedback question below.

### Question 18: Overall, how satisfied are you with our provision for enabling you to participate in this survey without the use of the online consultation tool?

* Very satisfied
* Satisfied
* Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
* Dissatisfied
* Very dissatisfied
* Don’t know

Please provide comments or suggestions you have on how we could improve on the method of contribution to the survey that does not involve the use of our online consultation tool: