



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

March 2014

Dear Consultee

## Consultation on the National Pollinator Strategy: for bees and other pollinators in England

Defra is seeking views on a proposed national pollinator strategy for bees and other pollinators in England. The strategy sets out proposals to safeguard these important insects given their role in pollinating many food crops and wild plants and their contribution to our food production and the diversity of our environment.

Pollinators face a wide range of environmental pressures and some species are threatened. Examples of pressures are: intensification of land-use and habitat loss both leading to loss of their food sources and shelter; pests and diseases; invasive species; use of pesticides; and, climate change. There are growing concerns that these pressures are leading to declines in the number, diversity and geographical ranges of individual species. Available evidence on these concerns is set out in the independent report on the 'Status and value of pollinators and pollination services' ('the Status Report') which Defra commissioned in 2013 to help inform development of the Strategy. The is published with this consultation.

Through the proposed Strategy, the government's aim is to set a new direction to safeguard and support our pollinators, building on many current initiatives and drawing on the skills, experience and enthusiasm of all interested parties. It is a shared plan with the other interested organisations who have worked with us on it over the last six months. We will continue to work with these organisations during implementation. We also want to inspire action at all levels by many other organisations and individuals, guided by the strategy's vision, aims and actions.

The proposed strategy has three main elements:

- 1) **Evidence-gathering on pollinator status and impacts of pressures.** The strategy proposes 12 evidence actions to provide a sound base for future policies to support pollinators, including developing and implementing a sustainable monitoring programme on pollinators.
- 2) **Priority policy actions.** The strategy proposes 18 priority actions for Government and for others to implement from 2014. They reflect current evidence and in some cases build on and expand current initiatives to refocus on the essential needs of pollinators.



- 3) **A commitment to review and refresh the strategy's aims and actions as additional evidence becomes available.** From 2016, we will have new evidence from the monitoring programme and other evidence projects. In addition, we will have lessons from the effectiveness of the policy actions and from the partnerships and collaborations we build during 2014 to 2016. Using this evidence, we will work with other interested parties to review the Strategy's aims and to identify any necessary additional policy actions or ways of working to strengthen our response by 2019.

## Responses

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. We would prefer you to give us your answers to the consultations questions using the online survey on our consultation website: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/>. If you are unable to do so, we will accept responses via email to the consultation mailbox: [pollinatorstrategy@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:pollinatorstrategy@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

Alternatively, postal responses should be addressed to:

National Pollinator Strategy Team  
Room 11G35  
Sand Hutton  
York  
YO41 1LZ

Responses should be received by 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.

## Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at [www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance)

Copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at:

[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, 629 Milbank, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR or email [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Liz McIntosh

**(Defra Policy Lead on the National Pollinator Strategy)**