

**Agenda - Annual GMO meeting**  
**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017, 2pm**  
**SASA**

Attended by officials from the CAP, SRDP and GM Policy team & SASA.

**1. Matters arising from 6/5/16**

- *SASA to discuss holding a GM information day for Scottish Government (SG) legal team (similar to that held for seed certification).*

To follow up.

- *SG and SASA websites to be updated to reflect the change of contact for Part B applications to SASA.*

Completed.

**2. Petunia incident**

- The recent GM petunia incident was discussed. A total of 3 varieties from two different suppliers were tested at SASA and confirmed as GM. The suppliers have been advised that they may not market the affected varieties.
- The information/briefing for SG staff attending Gardening Scotland was agreed.
- The lessons learnt from this incident were discussed and will be picked up further in UK level wrap-up discussions. There is also expected to be EU level talks to ascertain how the incident occurred & to identify steps to avoid similar incidents in the future.

**3. Update on ongoing work at SASA**

- Three EU proficiency tests (May 2016, Nov 2016, May 2017) have been carried out in the past year. Satisfactory results were obtained for the two 2016 tests, and the 2017 one has just been submitted. The only samples tested during the year were the petunias as mentioned previously. The UKAS visit in March was successful.
- There were no imports declared in either the autumn 2016 or spring 2017 audits.
- Sites involved in last year's oilseed rape incident were re-visited by a GM inspector in the spring and no further OSR growth was detected.
- Twenty-five contained use notifications were received in 2016 with 7 so far received in 2017. Two novel new premises notifications were highlighted, one involving animal vaccines and the other a citizen science laboratory.
- No Part B notifications have been received since the administrative responsibility was transferred from the policy team to SASA.

- A SASA representative will attend the EEP meeting 7-8/6/17. The agenda includes discussions on DIY biology, NBT, and Italy's national plan on GM control

#### **4. Current priorities/ ongoing work in Policy**

- Transposition of EU Directive 2015/412 is progressing. The Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) and consultation have been completed with 6 responses to the consultation received (all favourable). To note, England, NI and Wales have now decided against transposing the EU Directive. They regard transposition as unnecessary given the UK decision to leave the EU.
- The Minister has been kept informed throughout the GM petunia incident.
- The Chief Scientific Adviser for Rural Affairs and the Environment and policy officials will meet Special Advisers on 26/6/17 to discuss the Contract Research Fund (CRF) bid for an evidence review to feed in to the work on the Agricultural Strategy for Scotland. Other work has included providing responses to media requests, maintaining rolling briefs and seeking Ministerial clearance for ACRE appointments and reappointments.

#### **5. Priorities/ workplan for the next year**

- In SASA work to maintain accreditation & improve testing will continue, as will the seed audit & any required action from it.
- Assuming Ministers give their consent, project managing the CRF bid will be the main piece of work for policy.

#### **6. AOB**

- The future evidence plan circulated by Rural and Environmental Science Analytical Services (RESAS) was discussed. Policy have commented on the document already. A coordinated SASA response will be prepared & submitted to RESAS.
- The appointment & authority of inspectors was discussed. It was agreed that GM inspections should be added to the authorisation scope of current inspectors to allow them to help in any future incidents.