



The ninety-ninth meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held at 0900 hours on 12 June 2014, at Monkstone House, Peterborough, PE1 1JY

This paper was provided to the Joint Committee for information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for Committee's position on the paper.

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## **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

### **Matters arising**

This paper deals with points not covered by substantive items on the agenda. Numbers relate to the minutes of the March 2014 meeting. Reporting on action points from the March 2014 meeting is included in Annex 1.

#### **7. Changes to governance arrangements (JNCC14 D02)**

In March, Committee discussed the limited country conservation body membership of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and possible flexibility in allowing country nature conservation body staff to be members of Committee sub-groups. Committee asked for a proposal to address these issues to be brought to the June Committee meeting.

It is proposed to take the following steps to address these issues:

Current Committee members will be invited to provide brief details of their competencies to the JNCC Chair based on a framework of competencies required by the Committee as a whole.

Competency gaps will be addressed where possible by:

- the forthcoming recruitment of independent members;
- future appointments of country nature conservation body members. This will require discussion between the JNCC Chair and the relevant country nature conservation body Chairs;
- training.

Current members will be asked to self-nominate, or to be nominated, for sub-groups based on the match between their competencies and those required by the relevant sub-group.

Where gaps in competencies required for sub-groups are to be addressed through recruitment, membership of the relevant sub-group will be specified in recruitment documentation.

Proposals will be developed as necessary for any residual gaps including any staff involvement in Committee sub-groups.

**Annex 1. Action points from the March 2014 Committee meeting**

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Action Point</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>4.4 Matters arising (JNCC 14 N01)</b>	Mr Yeo to report concerns on the new internal audit arrangements to Defra.	Completed. JNCC's concerns over costs have been reported to the sponsorship team in Defra.
<b>5.4 Chief Executive's report on topical issues (JNCC 14 D01)</b>	Mr Yeo to report back to Defra on Committee's concerns around the One Business programme and to regularly update Committee on future developments.	Completed. There is ongoing dialogue with Defra about the One Business programme. An update on the latest developments has been provided in the Chief Executive's report to the June Committee meeting.
<b>6.8 JNCC business plan for 2014/15 (JNCC14 P03)</b>	Dr Bridgewater to sign off a revised version of the business plan.	Completed.
<b>7.3 Changes to governance arrangements (JNCC14 D02)</b>	Each country nature conservation body Chair to consider nominating a member of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.	See matters arising.
<b>7.4 Changes to governance arrangements (JNCC 14 D02)</b>	Support company staff to address issues in relationship to membership of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee for discussion by Committee in June 2014.	See matters arising.
<b>7.7 Changes to governance arrangements (JNCC 14 D02)</b>	Support company staff to give further consideration to country nature conservation body staff representation on Committee sub-groups and bring a proposal to the June Committee meeting.	See matters arising.
<b>8.3 Advancing conservation science thinking on protected areas in the UK (JNCC14 P02)</b>	A revised and final paper on advancing conservation thinking on protected areas in the UK to be presented at the June 2014 Committee meeting.	A revised paper is being presented at the June Committee meeting, following consideration by the Chief Scientists Group at their May 2014 meeting.
<b>11.4 Report from the MPA sub-group (oral update)</b>	Dr Brown to discuss possible future horizon-scanning with Committee Chair.	Dr Brown will discuss with the new Chair at a suitable opportunity.
<b>13.2 Any other business</b>	Country nature conservation body Chairs to nominate a candidate for membership of the Remuneration Committee.	Ongoing.