

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

REPORT OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON NANOTECHNOLOGIES AND FOOD

Issue

The Committee is invited to review a report published by the House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology on nanotechnologies and food and provide any comments for consideration in preparing the Government response to this report.

Background

1. The House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology launched an inquiry into nanotechnologies and food in February 2009.
2. Between March and July 2009, a total of thirteen oral evidence sessions took place at the House of Lords where a number of witnesses including the Food Standards Agency and the Minister for Public Health, Gillian Merron were called to give evidence.
3. On 8 January, 2010, the Select Committee published its report on the inquiry (**Annex 1**). The report highlights the themes that emerged during the evidence sessions (applications of nanotechnologies, health and safety, regulatory coverage, regulatory enforcement, public attitudes and public engagement).
4. The Select Committee made a total of thirty two recommendations in its report focussing on the commercialisation of nanotechnologies in the food sector, health and safety (particularly filling in knowledge gaps), regulatory coverage (particularly focussing on the need for a definition of nanotechnologies and nanomaterials), regulatory enforcement and effective communication.
5. A Government response to the Select Committee's report is being coordinated by the Food Standards Agency in collaboration with other Government departments with responsibilities in the areas covered by the report such as BIS (support for innovation) and Defra (regulation of chemicals and coordination of research into nanomaterial safety).

Committee Action Required

6. The Committee is invited to consider the Select Committee's report with a particular focus on the recommendations relevant to the Food Standards Agency, and provide any comments or suggestions that may assist in developing the Government response.

Secretariat

February 2010

Annex attached

Annex 1: - Select Committee's report on Nanotechnologies and Food
(main report only – the full publication with appendices is available via
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldsctech.htm>

Select Committee's report on Nanotechnologies and Food

**Secretariat
February 2010**