

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS PATHOGENS (ACDP)

HSC/E Strategic Research Outlook 2003

Issue

1. The draft annual HSC/E Strategic Research Outlook is attached for member's information (Annex 1). This document is now available to the public on the HSE website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/research>). HSC/E would welcome the ACDP's comments before it is finalised. A copy of the accompanying HSE press release is also included (Annex 2).

Background

2. This is a guide for the public to HSC/E research activities – those in progress and planned for 2003, with an indication of new and emerging areas of interest. The activities are presented in the context of HSC/E's strategic science and innovation aims, with links to their business aims and objectives.

3. The research programme is not static and the HSC/E would commission work in other areas if the need arose, but research is only undertaken to support operational and policy needs.

4. This document is intended as a source of reference for industry and the research community.

Factors Influencing Research

5. The primary influences on HSC/E's health and safety targets stem from the Government's *Revitalising Health and Safety* and *Securing Health Together* programmes. As a whole the focus of the work is in four main areas, and the research activities mirror these:

- Block 1 – the eight priority programmes (including transport, the agricultural sector and the health services sector);
- Block 2 - ensuring an effective regime in the major hazards sector, including the regulation of biological agents;
- Block 3 – securing compliance; and
- Block 4 – meeting the mandate given to HSC/E by statute and Government, e.g. operating statutory schemes.

6. Other areas of importance when considering HSC/E's research needs include:

- focusing on behaviour and new ways of working;
- operational research, with an increase in evaluation especially on the impact of HSC/E's activities; and
- keeping abreast of new and changing technologies.

Considerations for ACDP

7. Members may be particularly interested in the underlying policy objectives, research objectives and innovation strategies, recent research outcomes, current interests, and new and emerging areas of interest referred to for:

- workplace transport (pages 7-8);
- the agricultural sector (pages 17-19);
- the health services sector (pages 20-21);
- work in the major hazard industries (pages 24-27);
- securing compliance (pages 31-33); and
- work to modernise and simplify the regulatory framework (pages 35-37).

Actions

8. Members are asked to:

- note and comment on the draft research plans contained in the annual HSC/E Strategic Research Outlook (Annex 1) either individually or as a committee response, which the Secretariat will coordinate;
- note for information the accompanying HSE press release (Annex 2).

Secretariat

December 2002