

## 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**