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## HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

### The appointment of a new Chair and re-appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens

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#### Issue

1. A new Chair of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) has been appointed by Department of Health (DH) Ministers. At the same time, four members of the Committee, including two employee representatives, have been reappointed for a further term of office.

#### Timing

2. The appointments were confirmed at the beginning of September 2004.

#### Recommendation

3. HSC to note developments.

#### Background

4. The ACDP is a cross-Government scientific advisory committee, with a joint DH, Defra and HSE Secretariat. The ACDP's terms of reference are "To advise the Health and Safety Commission, the Health and Safety Executive, Health and Agriculture Ministers and their counterparts under devolution in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, as required, on all aspects of hazards and risks to workers and others from exposure to pathogens".
5. The appointments to ACDP are made by DH Ministers. A "rolling programme" of membership was instituted in 1998, with members being appointed initially for 1,2 or 3

years, so that each year a proportion of the membership would come up for review, rather than wholesale review every 3 years.

6. Including vacancies, the ACDP's current membership comprises an independent Chairman (being filled), 8 specialist scientific and medical members, plus 4 employer and 4 employee representatives. Assessors from Defra, the ministry of Defence, the devolved administrations, the Health Protection Agency and the Centre for Applied Microbiology and Research also attend meetings.

## **Argument**

### Chair's appointment

7. In 2003, Professor Roger Whittenbury, who chaired the Committee for three years, resigned from ACDP due to ill health. Professor Roger Freeman (recently deceased), a long-standing and eminent ACDP member, agreed to stand in as interim Chairman until a full-time replacement could be appointed.
8. The NHS Appointments Commission was commissioned to run a recruitment exercise to fill the Chair vacancy for ACDP in late 2003. The exercise, including interviews, was carried out in conjunction with senior officials from DH and HSE in line with the current requirements on public appointments set out by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). An HSE official was involved in the sift of the applications and also sat on the interview board for candidates.
9. The outcome of this exercise was the recommendation that Professor George Griffin be appointed as the new ACDP Chairman. Professor Griffin has indicated that he wishes to accept the position. Biographical details and experience are set out in Annex A. It is hoped that Professor Griffin will chair the next ACDP meeting on 14 September 2004.

### Member's re-appointments

10. Colin Howard and Gordon Sutehall (expert members) and Pam Smith and Sue Wiseman (employee representatives) are due for re-appointment for a further term of office. For Colin Howard and Sue Wiseman it is proposed that re-appointment be for a further 3 years. Pam Smith and Gordon Sutehall are recommended for re-appointment to the committee for a further 2 years. As Pam Smith will have been a member of the committee since 1<sup>st</sup> November 1996, re-appointment was only proposed for a further 2 years until the end of her total 10-year term.
11. All of the above members have proved valuable and contributed to the work of the ACDP. DH Ministers have agreed to retain their services, and re-appoint them for a further term. The members have indicated their willingness to continue as ACDP members.

## **Consultation**

12. The position of Chair was advertised widely by means of a targeted mail drop to industry contacts, as well as an advert on the ACDP website inviting applications for the position. The Department of Health led on the appointments procedure, with HSE and Defra provided input at all stages of the process.

## **Presentation**

13. N/A

## **Costs and Benefits**

14. None

## **Financial/Resource Implications for HSE**

15. N/A

## **Environmental Implications**

16. N/A

## **Other Implications**

17. None

## **Action**

18. HSC to note the appointment of the new Chair and reappointment of four existing members of the ACDP.



**Annex A**

