



HM Government

Chemicals and Pesticides Provisional Common Framework Framework Outline Agreement and Concordat

February 2022

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Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty

February 2022

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Chemicals and Pesticides Common Framework

Provisional Framework Outline Agreement and Concordat

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Common Framework: Framework Outline Agreement

Section A: What we are talking about

1. Policy area

1.1. The policy area under consideration is chemicals regulation, including pesticides. For the purposes of this document, the term “chemicals” is to be read as including pesticides.

2. Scope

2.1. Chemicals policy will continue to ensure the safe management of chemicals to prevent and/or minimise harms to human health and the environment. This encompasses policies and regulations relating to:

- Biocidal Products (BPR),
- Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP),
- Detergents,
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs),
- Plant Protection Products (PPP),
- Prior Informed Consent (PIC),
- Mercury, and
- United Kingdom Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (UK REACH).

2.2. Prior to European Union (EU) Exit, chemicals were regulated under EU law. During the EU Exit Transition Period (TP), the UK chemicals industry continued to be regulated through a mixture of directly applicable EU law and domestic implementing legislation. These EU laws became retained EU law following the end of the TP. The areas of legislation that fall under the scope of this Common Framework agreement are laid out in Annex 1 and described in further detail in the Concordat.

2.3. The Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU sets out the current arrangements where, although remaining within the UK’s customs territory, Northern Ireland will remain aligned with the EU.

2.4. This Common Framework is not intended to be legally binding or enforceable.

3. Policy responsibilities for chemicals and pesticides

3.1. Policy responsibilities for Scotland lie with Scottish Government (SG); for Wales with Welsh Government (WG) and for Northern Ireland with the Northern Ireland Executive (NIE), split between the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for Economy (DfE). Within the NIE;

- DfE and DAERA share joint competence for UK REACH;
- DfE and the Department of Justice (DoJ) share joint competence for CLP (the remit of DoJ only covers civil explosives);
- DfE have an interest in PIC, and HSE Northern Ireland (HSENI) are the Designated National Authority;
- DfE have sole competence for BPR; and
- DAERA have sole competence for PPP, POPs, mercury and detergents.

3.2. Policy responsibilities for chemicals in England are split between the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE):

- Defra have policy responsibility for UK REACH (acting with the consent of Scottish and Welsh Ministers in respect of devolved matters), POPs, detergents, mercury and PPP in England, and more broadly where the subject matter sits within the Defra portfolio.
- HSE has policy responsibility dealing with BPR, and CLP. Regulatory changes to BPR and CLP can only be achieved with the consent of the Scottish and Welsh Ministers in respect of devolved matters.
- HSE has the policy lead in relation to PIC. DA consent is required under the PIC regulation making power in respect of devolved matters.

3.3. WG, SG and NIE have policy responsibilities for their respective nations insofar as they relate to matters of devolved competence that do not relate to a GB-wide regime.

4. Relevant international conventions and systems

4.1. The Stockholm Convention aims to protect human health and the environment from the effects of POPs by agreeing restrictions on production and use and monitoring emissions.

4.2. The Rotterdam Convention regulates the export of listed hazardous chemicals between countries through a regime of informed consents prior to export.

4.3. The Basel Convention regulates the transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal including reporting requirements with the objective to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations.

4.4. The Minamata Convention's objective is to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

4.5. The above agreements are implemented by specific UK/GB legislation. In Northern Ireland the agreements are implemented by specific EU regulations and directives, however, under international conventions Northern Ireland also must comply with additional requirements specifically relating to meeting international obligations.

4.6. The United Nations Global Harmonised System (GHS) is an international Framework which agrees criteria for classifying, labelling, and communicating the hazardous properties of chemicals, which are then implemented into national legislation (such as CLP and UK REACH).

4.7. The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is a voluntary, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder Framework which sets the direction of international chemicals and waste policy.

4.8. The scope of the Common Framework excludes major hazards legislation such as the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) legislation which is regulated by the COMAH competent authority and specific health and safety legislation, such as the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH).

5. International trade and World Trade Organisation (WTO) requirements

5.1. Having left the EU, the UK has taken up new obligations as an independent WTO member. Cross-departmental processes have been developed by Defra to ensure Parties to the Common Framework fulfil our new obligations, including consulting stakeholders on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures, notifying the committee of any change in SPS or TBT measures, responding to other nations' queries during the consultation period, and actively participating in committee work. The Common Framework is designed in a way that ensures the UK can continue to effectively fulfil its international obligations as a WTO member.

Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) governance

5.2. Where relevant, the Parties to this Common Framework will follow the governance arrangements and associated operational guidance on notifying SPS measures, which has been agreed by officials at the DA-Defra World Trade Organisation Operations and Trade Measures Board.

5.3. The DA-Defra World Trade Organisation Operations and Trade Measures Board includes trade leads and SPS policy and delivery body experts from all four UK governments. Where appropriate, the Board and its representatives will engage and communicate with Defra Common Framework working groups.

5.4. The Parties to this Common Framework agree to facilitate early engagement on relevant policy development, such as:

- developing a policy within the SPS context which will impact international trade or differ from international standards; and

- work relating to Market Access issues or barriers within the SPS context.

Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) governance

5.5. The Department of International Trade (DIT) represents UK interests in WTO in relation to TBT, including the WTO TBT Committee. DIT has developed processes and structures to seek the views of industry and other interested parts of the UK Government in relation to its TBT activities.

The Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)

5.6. The policy area covered by this Common Framework intersects with the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and therefore topics relevant to the Common Framework may be considered from time to time by relevant TCA Specialised Committees or the Partnership Council. Where a UK-EU meeting agenda includes an item concerning implementation in an area of devolved competence, UKG should facilitate Devolved Government attendance of a similar level to that of the UKG representatives with final discretion as to the UK delegation a matter for the UK co-chair. UKG should engage WG, SG and the relevant NIE Department(s), as fully as possible in preparation for these meetings regardless of attendance, and on all relevant implementation matters.

6. Interaction with other Common Frameworks

6.1. There are links between policy areas under chemicals legislation and other public health policy areas, including:

- the Resources and Waste Common Framework for UK REACH, mercury, and POPs; and
- the Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene Common Framework, given the potential risk to human health posed by pesticide residues in food.

7. Geographic scope

7.1. The Common Framework is UK-wide in scope; however, some matters will be dealt with at a UK level and others between UKG, SG and WG. This Common Framework sets out how the Parties will work together, the detail of this will be prescribed through governance arrangements.

7.2. The Common Framework sets out how future UK/GB arrangements will take account of specific governments' principles in delivering the new regime.

7.3. Even where English, Scottish and Welsh jurisdictions and Northern Ireland have separate regulatory systems in place, both systems will be operating within the UK Internal Market and therefore come within the scope of administrative arrangements set out in this Common Framework.

7.4. As England, Wales and Scotland begin to operate and develop their own regime/s, it is recognised that the requirements of the Protocol on Ireland/ Northern Ireland (henceforth referred to as the Northern Ireland Protocol) could result in divergence between Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales.

8. Implications of EU Exit on the Common Framework

8.1. Statutory Instruments (SIs): In England, Scotland, and Wales EU law became retained EU law under the EU Withdrawal Act 2018, subsequently amended in 2020 by a number of EU Exit SIs to take account of the Withdrawal Agreement (including the Northern Ireland Protocol). This legislation sets out the relevant statutory powers and duties of the four governments within the UK.

8.2. The following paragraphs of Annex 2 of the Protocol are relevant to this Common Framework:

- 23 chemicals and related; and
- 24 PPP and BPR, will apply.

8.3. This Common Framework reflects the specific circumstances in Northern Ireland that arise as a result of the Protocol, and remains UK wide in its scope. As such decision-making and information sharing will always respect the competence of all Parties to the Common Framework and in particular the provisions in Article 18 of the Protocol on democratic consent in Northern Ireland.

8.4. Where one or more of UKG, the SG or the WG propose to change rules in a way that has policy or regulatory implications for the rest of the UK, or where rules in Northern Ireland change in alignment with the EU, the Common Framework is intended to provide governance structures and consensus-based processes for considering and managing the impact of these changes.

8.5. As rules evolve to meet the emerging regulatory needs of the UK, this Common Framework will ensure the full participation of Northern Ireland in discussions such that the views of the relevant NIE Minister(s) are taken into account in reaching any policy or regulatory decisions by the UKG, SG or WG. Where rules in Northern Ireland change in alignment with the EU, the Common Framework will form the basis of a mechanism to ensure consideration by the four governments of any changes, and will enable them to determine any impacts and subsequent actions arising from these changes.

8.6. Where issues or concerns raised by the relevant NIE Minister(s) in respect of GB-only proposals have not been satisfactorily addressed, they will have the right to trigger a review of the issue as set out in the dispute resolution process at section 29 of this document.

8.7. Resource implications: The Parties will work together to review and decide how resources are allocated for a UK regulatory system.

8.8. Regulatory implications: This Common Framework is supported by legislative and non-legislative arrangements.

8.9. Non-governmental departments: the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) have regulatory responsibility for the Stockholm, Basel, and Minamata Conventions, in their respective geographical areas.

8.10. Other government agencies and public bodies have an interest in chemicals policy and regulation according to their specific remits and will be involved in discussion under the Common Framework where necessary via the governance arrangements being put in place.

9. Definitions

9.1. Definitions for the key terms in this policy area are listed in Annex 3.

Section B: Breakdown of policy area and Common Framework

10. Parties to the Common Framework

10.1. The Parties (hereafter ‘the Parties’) to the Common Framework are:

- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Scottish Government (SG)
- Welsh Government (WG)
- The Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)
- The Department for the Economy (DfE)
- The Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
- The Environment Agency (EA)

10.2. The Parties have worked collaboratively to design a governance model to ensure effective operation of the new chemicals regimes and systems post-transition through official-level discussions that is without prejudice to any final decisions that may be taken, or the views of Ministers.

11. Proposed approach

11.1. There is consensus on the need for a UK-wide Framework for chemicals regimes to support engagement between UKG, SG, WG and the relevant NIE department(s) to ensure future regulatory coherence, and enable the functioning of the UK Internal Market while acknowledging policy divergence.

11.2. The governance arrangements already in place include the UK Chemicals Governance Group (UKCGG) which provides strategic oversight of the various regulatory regimes within the UK and will be kept under review. The UKCGG is informed by a number of groups, including the Chemicals Delivery Board (CDB), Pesticides Delivery Board (PDB), and Biocides Delivery Board (BDB). Independent advisory groups, including the Expert Committee on Pesticides Residues in Food (PRiF) and the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) advise the UKG and the Devolved Governments through correspondence, and this advice is reflected in the way issues are then brought to the associated delivery boards.

12. Nature of the Common Framework

12.1. The non-legislative governance elements of the Common Framework are currently well established. However, additional governance arrangements may be required and will be considered as and when required. Separate Agency Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding may be required between combinations of the Parties.

13. Stakeholder engagement

13.1. The Parties can communicate with stakeholders independently. However, the Concordat will reflect best practice in undertaking UK/GB stakeholder engagement where it maximises benefits and allows the chemicals regimes to operate in a GB/UK context.

13.2. The Parties to the Common Framework agree that the approach summarised above is necessary according to Section 1 of the JMC(EN) Frameworks Principles, as detailed in Annex 2.

14. Detailed overview of proposed Common Framework: legislation (primary or secondary)

14.1. The elements of retained EU law in this area that intersect with devolved competence, alongside relevant international conventions and agreements where applicable, are listed in Annex 1.

14.2. Primary legislation - The Environment Act gives the Secretary of State the power to amend the UK REACH Regulation (other than certain protected provisions, to which only incidental etc. amendments can be made under the Act) and the UK REACH Enforcement Regulations. SIs made by the Secretary of State under these powers will be subject to the WG and SG consent requirements in Article 4A of the UK REACH regulation. The Act also contains powers for WG, SG and the relevant NIE Departments to make regulations to amend the UK REACH Enforcement Regulations.

15. Detailed overview of proposed Common Framework: non-legislative arrangements

15.1. Non-legislative arrangements will consist of an associated Concordat between the Parties, covering working arrangements and shared principles. Relevant bilateral and/or multilateral agreements are being developed between the four governments and relevant regulators.

Section C: Operational elements of Common Framework

16. Decision-making and co-operation

16.1. The Concordat sets out the decision-making process in line with the established governance structure. The lowest level of joint decision-making between Parties to the Common Framework will be at a working group level, with strategic decisions being made at the UKCGG and higher-level decisions being made by Ministers. Any Party may choose to escalate a decision to the UKCGG if they feel it requires such scrutiny and to be made with input from all Parties. The detail of the decisions to be made by each group is held within the Concordat and terms of references for each group. Decision-making processes should be clear and transparent to all Parties with open communication and integrated working where possible to support the development of new, innovative solutions. The Parties recognise that some decisions will need to be taken at Ministerial level, either because the legislation requires it, or because of their contentious or political nature.

16.2. Whilst ensuring the need for independence in the opinion and decision-making process is maintained where appropriate, the UKG and the Devolved Governments will engage with regulators to ensure that the necessary information to make the required decisions is shared effectively. Each Party will share relevant information and scientific research in an open and transparent way within the limits of confidentiality (further detail is contained within the Concordat at paragraph 50 and paragraphs 84-88).

16.3. Timelines for reaching a decision should be agreed by all required Parties and take account of the timings and obligations outlined in relevant regulations. All Parties recognise there may be occasions where rapid resolutions will be needed. In these circumstances, timescales for escalation must allow for the differing clearance processes of all Parties and take account of timescales set out in the relevant legislation.

16.4. This Common Framework acknowledges the statutory and executive freedom of the UKG, SG, WG and the relevant NIE Department(s) to take different decisions in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, the Common Framework will serve as a mechanism by which to identify a UK-wide approach as appropriate. The Parties recognise differences in regulation across the UK could have regulatory, policy and financial impacts which need to be fully considered.

16.5. The Parties will provide information and reports to enable the UKCGG to consider work programmes and priorities for the year ahead. These will be reviewed by the UKCGG alongside approaches to resource allocation to ensure the effective functioning of the UK/GB chemicals regime.

16.6. The Parties will engage in discussions on resource allocation to ensure all regimes covered by this Common Framework are able to properly function.

Unforeseen resource allocations will be managed by agreements between relevant Parties.

16.7. The Common Frameworks Principles agreed at JMC (EN) state that Common Frameworks will be established where necessary to ensure the UK can negotiate, enter into and implement new trade agreements and international treaties, and ensure compliance with international obligations. These principles were established in the context of an ambition for close working between the UK Government and the Devolved Governments on reserved matters that significantly impact devolved responsibilities in Common Frameworks.

16.8. Common Frameworks will allow the Parties, in a timely manner, to ascertain the impact of international trade on managing UK policy divergence. All Parties to the Common Framework will consider any impact in a way that meets the requirements of the JMC (EN) principles. Common Frameworks will afford an opportunity to consider any implications stemming from international trade which have a direct bearing on the operation of a Common Framework. The scope of this consideration will not extend beyond Common Frameworks.

16.9. International policy formulation will be developed in line with the current Devolution MoU and its accompanying International Relations (IR) Concordat. International obligations will be implemented in line with these agreements. In this respect, the Parties will automatically use any updated IR Concordat, and the wider outcomes of the Joint Intergovernmental Relations Review (IGR), as the basis for such international considerations.

16.10. Where there is difference of opinion and no agreement can be reached, the dispute resolution process may be triggered as detailed in section 29.

17. Roles and responsibilities of each Party to the Common Framework

17.1. The Parties agree that they must have an operational governance arrangement in place for implementing chemicals legislation. This will involve all Parties, and other public bodies as appropriate (for example, where they are involved in working groups).

17.2. The UKG and the Devolved Governments are required to set the strategic direction for the UK regulatory regime, enabling and encouraging collaboration between the relevant bodies to ensure that existing environmental and human health standards are maintained or exceeded where possible.

17.3. Ministers' roles and responsibilities include, but are not limited to, approving policies and strategies, and approving priority-setting to provide high-level policy direction. In line with the governance structure, Ministers are responsible for decision-making processes above senior official level. Ministers are also responsible for review and amendment, as detailed in section 28.

17.4. In line with this Common Framework's governance structure, senior officials represent the Parties to this Common Framework at the UKCGG to provide strategic oversight of the UK regime and policy development. Senior officials are also

responsible for resolving disputes escalated from the working group. This occurs at Senior Officials Programme Board (SOPB) level for Efra regimes, where officials perform a sifting/challenge role alongside Defra ahead of a Ministerial level discussion, or between senior officials and/or Ministers as necessary for non-Efra regimes.

18. Information sharing

18.1. To enable each Party to operate effectively, the Parties will aim to provide each other with as full and open as possible access to scientific, technical and policy information including statistics and research and, where appropriate, representations from third parties. The Parties recognise that timely co-operation is necessary to meet respective policy and business objectives. It is also a collective responsibility to deliver official statistics and respond to requests from Ministers to required standards. Realistic deadlines should be agreed by all relevant Parties when developing documentation with a joint interest to ensure appropriate time is available to fully consider the content, provide for clearance process and act with due diligence. Where a document is jointly drafted, UKG and the Devolved Governments should have access to draft documents at all stages of the process. Further detail regarding confidentiality is contained within the Concordat, at paragraph 50, and paragraphs 84-88.

18.2. As certain EU regimes will continue to apply in Northern Ireland, there are likely to be limitations on information-sharing between NIE and the other Parties. This could be the case, for example, where all Parties do not have permitted access to the information.

19. Parliamentary and stakeholder communication and engagement

19.1. The Parties agree to deliver timely and consistent messages to stakeholders by utilising current methods of stakeholder engagement. Policy announcements affecting areas of devolved competence will not be made until the policies being announced have been formally agreed by the Parties concerned.

20. Planning and preparation

20.1. Work programmes and business plans should be agreed and reviewed regularly to ensure all Parties can manage their resources effectively. Realistic deadlines should be agreed by all the relevant Parties when reviewing documentation to ensure appropriate time is available to fully consider the content, provide for clearance process and act with due diligence.

21. Roles and responsibilities of existing or new bodies

21.1. Existing governance arrangements will be adapted or expanded, or new UK governance arrangements formed to cover the previous arrangements under the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

The Common Framework sets out the roles and responsibilities of the different organisations, such as the devolved regulators, and reflects relationships between the Parties.

22. Officials

22.1. Officials will hold day-to-day discussions on the policy covered by Common Frameworks and put advice to Ministers with the rationale for the approach taken within a policy area, or why divergent policies may be necessary. If officials do not agree in day-to-day discussions when making decisions, or if the decision is of appropriate significance to necessitate being raised at a decision-making board, issues discussed at a working level can be escalated initially to the CDB, PDB, BDB or UKCGG, or to senior officials in line with the Common Framework's dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism.

23. Working groups (policy officials)

23.1. Officials across the Parties will convene at the pre-existing CDB, PDB, and BDB working groups to discuss policy issues as appropriate, and to keep colleagues regularly informed of any ramifications that policy will have across UKG and the Devolved Governments. These groups will feed into the overarching UKCGG which provides a strategic oversight of the various regulatory regimes within the UK and will be kept under review as the post-transition landscape takes shape.

23.2. If officials do not agree, either in this group or in day-to-day discussions when making decisions, issues discussed at a working level can be escalated to senior officials in line with the Common Framework's dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism.

24. Senior officials

24.1. Senior officials (for example, Deputy Directors and Directors) provide strategic direction on the policy areas governed by Common Frameworks and take key operational decisions. They may review an issue as per the dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism if officials are not able to agree an approach, or, if Ministers have remitted advice back to officials in the first instance, in another attempt to reach agreement. Senior officials should convene to discuss issues as appropriate, at the quarterly UKCGG or on an ad hoc basis. Issues may then be escalated to the Defra/DA Senior Officials Programme Board (SOPB) for Efra regimes, or to senior official/Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) level for non-Efra regimes.

25. Ministers

25.1 Ministers may receive advice from their officials either concurrently as issues arise, or on an individual basis in the course of business as usual. Ministers may accept advice, or they may reject it. If work is sent to senior officials and an issue remains unresolved, the issue may be escalated to Ministers. Ministerial consideration of issues as part of the Common Framework's dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism could be via several media, including inter-ministerial

meetings through the relevant inter-Ministerial group including the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (IMG-Efra) for Efra regimes, or by correspondence.

26. Regulators

26.1. HSE's role within the context of this Common Framework is set out in Annex 4, which indicates the mixture of operational/policy responsibilities. Some of these responsibilities derive from legislation and some are delegated from UKG and the Devolved Governments via Agency Agreements, as laid out in the Concordat, Annex C, and this will continue where necessary.

26.2. HSE is a policy lead for the UK Government on CLP, PIC and BPR, as set out in Annex 4, with responsibility for these areas falling within the portfolio of the Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions. In the Devolved Governments, this policy role is led by WG, SG and the relevant NIE Department(s).

26.3. HSE also acts as the operational lead for CLP, PIC and BPR for UKG, SG, and WG, as well as for PPP, UK REACH and detergents. HSE enforces BPR, CLP, PIC, PPP, detergents, and UK REACH for UKG, SG, and WG. The enforcement roles and responsibilities for each regime under this Common Framework are clearly set out in the relevant UK legislation. This includes multiple enforcing agencies under some regimes, with specific responsibilities. The Enforcement Liaison Group provides a mechanism for these enforcing bodies to engage.

26.4. EA supports HSE in their role as the Agency under UK REACH by providing expert advice on environmental issues, and where relevant, other chemical and pesticides regimes as set out in Annex 4 of the FOA. EA collaborates with the other environmental regulators from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as appropriate when formulating its advice to HSE. It will do this through a separate group, which has already been established and a working agreement is being developed in conjunction with relevant environmental regulators. Environmental regulator members of that group will be expected to liaise with their respective government. The EA will not normally engage directly with Defra or the Devolved Governments when formulating advice to the HSE.

26.5. In relation to international conventions (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata), where responsibilities for delivering UK commitments are devolved across the UK, the environmental regulators will collaborate to ensure a consistent approach where possible. With regards to the Rotterdam Convention, WG, SG and NIE, do not have responsibility for delivering the UK's responsibilities under the Convention. WG and SG, must, however, give consent to UK import responses for chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention.

27. Monitoring

27.1. Areas which will be monitored are:

1. meeting statutory responsibilities and international obligations to protect the environment, animal health and human health;

2. transparent assessment and agreement on resources;
3. all Parties are fulfilling their duties under the Concordat.

27.2. The outcome of this monitoring will be used to inform the next review and amendment process. If there is an unresolved disagreement, the dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism should be used.

27.3. Existing monitoring and enforcement practices will be kept under review to ensure that existing environmental standards are maintained or exceeded where possible.

28. Review and amendment

28.1. The Common Framework will be kept under review and amended by unanimous agreement as detailed in the Concordat.

Review stage

28.2. The Review and Amendment Mechanism (RAM) ensures the Common Framework can adapt to changing policy and governance environments in the future.

28.3. The RAM relies on consensus at each stage of the process from the Ministers responsible for the policy areas covered in the Concordat.

28.4. Third parties can be used by any Party to the Common Framework to provide advice at any stage in the process. These include other government departments or bodies as well as external stakeholders.

28.5. At the outset of the review stage, the Parties to the Common Framework must agree timelines for the process, including the possible amendment stage.

28.6. If agreement is not reached in either the review or amendment stage, Parties to the Common Framework can raise it as a dispute through the Common Framework's dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism.

28.7. A periodic review of the Common Framework will take place every 3 years with the first review taking place six months on from the finalised Common Framework coming into force. The period of 3 years starts from the conclusion of a periodic review and any amendment stages that follow.

28.8. During the periodic review, the Parties to the Common Framework will discuss whether the governance and operational aspects of the Common Framework are working effectively, and whether decisions made over the previous year need to be reflected in an updated Concordat.

28.9. An exceptional review of the Common Framework is triggered by a 'significant issue'. A significant issue must be time sensitive and fundamentally impact the operation and/or the scope of the Common Framework.

28.10. The exceptional review may include a review of governance structures if all the Parties agree it is required. Otherwise, these issues are handled in the periodic review. The same significant issue cannot be discussed within six months of the closing of that issue.

Amendment stage

28.11. The amendment stage can only be triggered through unanimous agreement by Ministers. Following agreement that all the Parties wish to enter the amendment stage, the Parties will enter into discussion around the exact nature of the amendment. This can either be led by one Party to the Common Framework or all.

28.12. If an amendment is deemed necessary during either type of review, the existing Common Framework will remain in place until a final amendment has been agreed.

28.13. All amendments to the Common Framework must be agreed by all the Parties and a new Concordat signed by all Parties.

28.14. If the Parties cannot agree whether or how the Common Framework should be amended, this may become a disagreement. As such, this could be raised through the Common Framework's dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism.

29. Dispute resolution

29.1. A dispute resolution process is contained within the Concordat. Attempts will be made to resolve all disputes at the earliest possible stage using existing official forums wherever possible, reducing the need for the dispute to be escalated. Alternative views (where two or more of the Parties take differing views or interpretations of a particular issue) or an inability for the Parties to agree a common interpretation may trigger the dispute resolution process. Agreement to disagree is acceptable unless this causes disruption, has a detrimental effect on the operation of any of the chemicals' regimes to which the Common Framework relates, or negatively impacts the ability to meet the Common Framework principles in Annex 2. Any alternative views may be resolved at the level at which they occur and do not necessarily have to be escalated to instigate the dispute resolution process.

29.2. If no agreement can be reached and commonality is necessary, disputes will be escalated to the UKCGG, or relevant senior officials or ministerial group. If a dispute fails to be resolved at the UKCGG level, the subsequent process for escalation differs depending on whether the regime is Efra or non-Efra, with Efra regimes first being escalated to the Senior Officials Programme Board (SOPB), and, if not resolved, escalated to Ministers through the Inter-Ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (IMG-Efra). If disputes are not resolved at the UKCGG level for non-Efra regimes, the dispute is escalated for discussion between the Parties at senior official/SRO level. If the issue is still not resolved, it will then be escalated to Ministers.

29.3. If the dispute has been escalated to the highest level in the dispute resolution process and there is still disagreement, the disagreement may be referred to the

overarching dispute resolution mechanism outlined in appropriate intergovernmental structures as a method of last resort.

29.4. Where issues or concerns raised by the relevant NIE Minister(s) in respect of GB-only proposals have not been satisfactorily addressed, they will have the right to trigger a review of the issue.

29.5. A description of the dispute resolution process is included in the Concordat.

30. Intergovernmental Relations Review

30.1. The outcomes of the intergovernmental relations review are in the process of being implemented. Once confirmation has been provided from each government, the outcomes of the review and appropriate intergovernmental structures will be reflected in this Common Framework.

Section D: Practical next steps and related issues

31. Implementation

31.1. Implementation plan: various elements of the Common Framework have already been implemented, such as specific governance arrangements. Further implementation of the Common Framework will take place as it develops further.

Annex 1: Regimes and regulations within scope

The elements of retained EU law in this area that intersect with devolved competence, and relevant international conventions and agreements, where applicable are:

- Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (EU REACH Regulation)
- Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 on detergents (as amended)
- Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation), United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)
- Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (BPR Regulation)
- Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (PIC regulation), Rotterdam Convention
- Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market (PPPs Regulation)
- Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on persistent organic pollutants. (POPs regulation) and Council Directive 96/59/EC of 16 September 1996 on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT), Stockholm Convention
- Regulation (EU) 2017/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on mercury (Mercury Regulation), Minamata Convention
- Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006 of 14 June 2006 on shipments of waste, Basel Convention
- Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 February 2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC.
- Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products.

- Directive 2009/128/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a Framework for Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides

Annex 2: Joint Ministerial Committee (EU Negotiations) Communique, October 2017

Common Frameworks: definition and principles

Definition

As the UK leaves the European Union, the Government of the United Kingdom and the devolved administrations agree to work together to establish common approaches in some areas that are currently governed by EU law, but that are otherwise within areas of competence of the devolved administrations or legislatures. A Framework will set out a common UK, or GB, approach and how it will be operated and governed. This may consist of common goals, minimum or maximum standards, harmonisation, limits on action, or mutual recognition, depending on the policy area and the objectives being pursued. Frameworks may be implemented by legislation, by executive action, by memorandums of understanding, or by other means depending on the context in which the Framework is intended to operate.

Context

The following principles apply to Common Frameworks in areas where EU law currently intersects with devolved competence. There will also be close working between the UK Government and the devolved administrations on reserved and excepted matters that impact significantly on devolved responsibilities.

Discussions will be either multilateral or bilateral between the UK Government and the devolved administrations. It will be the aim of all parties to agree where there is a need for Common Frameworks and the content of them.

The outcomes from these discussions on Common Frameworks will be without prejudice to the UK's negotiations and future relationship with the EU.

Principles

1. Common Frameworks will be established where they are necessary in order to:
 - enable the functioning of the UK internal market, while acknowledging policy divergence;
 - ensure compliance with international obligations;
 - ensure the UK can negotiate, enter into and implement new trade agreements and international treaties;
 - enable the management of common resources;
 - administer and provide access to justice in cases with a cross-border element; and
 - safeguard the security of the UK.

2. Frameworks will respect the devolution settlements and the democratic accountability of the devolved legislatures, and will therefore:

- be based on established conventions and practices, including that the competence of the devolved institutions will not normally be adjusted without their consent;
- maintain, as a minimum, equivalent flexibility for tailoring policies to the specific needs of each territory as is afforded by current EU rules; and
- lead to a significant increase in decision-making powers for the devolved administrations.

3. Frameworks will ensure recognition of the economic and social linkages between Northern Ireland and Ireland and that Northern Ireland will be the only part of the UK that shares a land frontier with the EU. They will also adhere to the Belfast Agreement.

Annex 3: Glossary

Definitions for the key terms in this policy area are as follows:

- Biocides are chemical substances or microorganisms intended to destroy, deter, render harmless, or exert a controlling effect on any harmful organism.
- Chemical regimes are defined as those arrangements covered by the specific legislation listed in Annex 1 (for example, CLP, UK REACH, PPP, POPs etc.) and the sundry legislation around these, including domestic regulations and international conventions. The legislation listed in Annex 1 includes, but is not limited to, regimes covered by the European Chemicals Agency in the EU for EU Member States and has a role in the regulation of the regimes in Northern Ireland by virtue of NIP.
- Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) involves identifying hazardous chemicals and how they can harm life and the environment, and helps to ensure chemicals are stored and disposed of safely.
- Detergents are surfactants or a mixture of surfactants with cleansing properties in dilute solutions.
- European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is an agency of the EU which manages the technical and administrative aspects of the implementation of REACH, CLP and BPR in the EU for EU Member States and has a role in the regulation of the regimes in Northern Ireland by virtue of NIP.
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is the agency of the EU that provides independent scientific advice and communicates on existing and emerging risks associated with the food chain in the EU for EU Member States and has a role in the regulation of the regimes in Northern Ireland by virtue of NIP.
- Mercury is toxic and can be harmful to people and the environment.
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are chemicals which persist in the environment, can bioaccumulate and biomagnify in food chain organisms, including humans, and are toxic.
- Plant Protection Products (PPP, or pesticides) (as defined in Article 2 of Regulation 1107/2009) are products used to control pests, weeds, and diseases, to protect crops and other useful plants.
- Prior Informed Consent (PIC) aims to protect human health and the environment by providing importing countries with information on how to store, transport, use and dispose of hazardous chemicals safely.
- United Kingdom Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (UK REACH) regulates the manufacture, placing on the market, and use of chemicals. While EU REACH continues to apply to Northern

Ireland under the Northern Ireland Protocol, the domestic REACH regime is referred to as “UK REACH” as certain aspects of UK REACH apply to NI, in relation to facilitating the movement of substances from Northern Ireland to GB.

Annex 4: Regulator roles and the associated regulation areas

HSE - policy role

- Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP)
- Prior Informed Consent (PIC)
- Biocides

HSE - operational role/body

- Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (UK REACH)
- CLP
- PIC
- Biocides
- Plant Protection Products (PPP)
- Detergents

EA - operational role

- UK REACH (advisory role via HSE)
- Interest in environment matters relating to biocides, PPP, and CLP
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- Mercury
- Basel

NRW for Wales, SEPA for Scotland and NIEA for the NIE— operational role

- UK REACH (advisory role via EA)
- Mercury
- POPs
- Interest in environment matters relating to biocides, PPP, and CLP
- Basel

UK Chemicals and Pesticides Concordat

Introduction

1. This document sets out a Concordat between the following Parties to the Common Framework (the Parties):
 - a) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra);
 - b) Scottish Government (SG);
 - c) Welsh Government (WG);
 - d) Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs Northern Ireland (DAERA);
 - e) Department for Economy (DfE);
 - f) The Health and Safety Executive (HSE); and
 - g) The Environment Agency (EA).
2. This Common Framework has been produced to support the effective regulation and administration of chemicals and pesticides across the UK, following its departure from the European Union (EU). The relevant regulations set out within the scope of this Framework will be referred to collectively as ‘the UK chemicals regime’.
3. The Parties acknowledge there is a separate set of stakeholders not party to this Common Framework who have a key interest and role in delivering the UK chemicals regime. These include but are not limited to: other UK Government (UKG) departments, HSE Northern Ireland (HSENI), devolved environmental regulators, third sector organisations, public health bodies, relevant trade associations and businesses.
4. This Common Framework aims to ensure the continued functioning of the UK chemicals regime. The arrangements herein will respect devolution settlements, established constitutional conventions and practices, and appropriate intergovernmental structures.

Scope

5. The Parties agree that this Common Framework establishes the governance arrangements of new UK chemicals regimes surrounding EU returning powers.
6. The Parties agree on the need for flexibility within the UK chemicals regime to:
 - adjust to new domestic arrangements;
 - take account of developments in international science and evidence on chemicals and pesticides; and
 - take account of other regulatory systems within the UK or those with which the UK wishes to interact.

7. The Parties acknowledge there are separate and distinct devolution settlements across the UK. This means there is a complex mixture of reserved and devolved competences across the chemicals and pesticides landscape. Decisions taken in a devolved area may have significant consequences on a reserved area, and vice versa.
8. The UK chemicals regime is based on the EU chemicals and pesticides regime when the UK was a Member State. At the end of the Transition Period, a number of European Commission (EC) regulations which made up the chemicals and pesticides regime became 'retained EU law' applicable to the UK only. These regulations are detailed in the FOA at Annex 1. Many of those Regulations continue to apply in Northern Ireland by virtue of the Northern Ireland Protocol.
9. At the end of the transition period, the UK also remained party to a number of international conventions detailed at Annex A. Some of the regulations at Annex 1 of the FOA interact with or implement international conventions. All decisions made in relation to the regulations in Annex 1 of the FOA are within scope of this Common Framework and will be made by the appropriate Party. The scope of the Common Framework excludes major hazards legislation such as the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) legislation which is regulated by the COMAH competent authority, and specific health and safety legislation such as the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH).
10. The Parties agree that the scope of this Common Framework may not be limited to those regulations covered at the time of inception. The Parties may consider extending the scope of the Common Framework if required with the consensus and agreement of all Parties, for example to include other regimes, to reflect advances in technology, or changes to the UK's interaction with international fora and structures.
11. This Common Framework is underpinned by the consent of the Parties to work collaboratively, adhering to the Common Framework principles set out in Annex 2 of the FOA.

Purpose

12. This Common Framework sets out procedures that will be followed by the Parties to deliver policies and facilitate decision-making for the UK chemicals regime.
13. The Parties agree on the need to develop common purpose and priority setting for policy across the UK. In doing so, the Parties will consider the policies and strategies of each Party and be subject to relevant approval from Ministers as detailed in paragraph 30.

Terms of Common Framework

High-level principles

14. The Parties agree to adhere to the following high-level principles:

- Respect will be paid to the devolution settlements and to the democratic accountability of the WG, the SG and NIE This includes the provisions of the Belfast Agreement, with the inclusion of the North/South dimension highlighted in Strand 2 of that Agreement.
- This Common Framework will enable the development of policy and delivery of the UK chemicals regime through the mechanisms set out in this Common Framework.
- All Parties will share relevant information and scientific research in the spirit of openness, transparency and collective objectives; within the limits of confidentiality, so far as legislation allows.
- All Parties agree to respect the dispute resolution process. However, this process should only be utilised when agreement cannot be reached at an operational or policy level.

Governance

15. The Parties jointly determined that a new overarching governance group was needed as part of the Common Framework. The UK Chemicals Governance Group (UKCGG), which consists of senior officials representing the Parties to this Common Framework, has been set up to achieve this.
16. The UKCGG provides strategic oversight of the UK chemicals regime and policy development, including a programme of work, risk management and priority setting as detailed in the UKCGG Terms of Reference.
17. Policy and technical working groups sit under the UKCGG. Members of these groups consist of official-level policy and technical experts. These experts represent the Parties to this Common Framework. Members also represent other regulators, departments, or arm's-length bodies that are not signatories to this Common Framework, where they have a role to play in delivering the UK's chemicals and pesticides regimes. The governance structure is outlined in Annex D.
18. The Parties will collaborate to develop criteria to determine when regulatory decisions, issues, or information should be escalated to the UKCGG, or to the working groups sitting under it. These will be developed, agreed, and reviewed by the UKCGG as required.

Regulators' roles and responsibilities

19. In relation to international conventions (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata), where responsibilities for delivering UK commitments are devolved across the UK, the environmental regulators collaborate to ensure a consistent approach where possible. With regards to the Rotterdam Convention, WG, SG, and NIE do not have responsibility for delivering the UK's responsibilities under the Convention. WG, and SG must, however, give consent to UK import responses for chemicals listed under the Rotterdam Convention and other functions, such as updating of the UKG, SG and WG Prior Informed Consent (PIC) list.

HSE

20. HSE's role within the context of this Common Framework is set out in Annex 4 of the FOA, which indicates the mixture of operational/policy responsibilities. Some of these responsibilities derive from legislation and some are delegated from UKG and the Devolved Governments via Agency Agreements, outlined in Annex C, and this will continue where necessary.
21. HSE is the policy lead for the UKG on Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) regulation, the PIC regulation and the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR), as set out in Annex 4 of the FOA. Responsibility for these areas falls within the portfolio of the Secretary of State for the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for England. In the Devolved Governments, this policy role is led by WG, SG and the relevant NIE Department(s).
22. HSE also acts as the operational lead for CLP, PIC and BPR for UKG, SG and WG, as well as for Plant Protection Products (PPP), UK Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (UK REACH) and Detergents. HSE must obtain advice from EA when exercising certain functions, EA should pass on advice from other regulators as detailed in paragraph 25.
23. HSE enforces BPR, CLP, PIC, PPP, detergents, and UK REACH for UKG, SG and WG. The enforcement roles and responsibilities for each regime under this Common Framework are set out in the relevant UK legislation. This includes multiple enforcing agencies with specific responsibilities for some regimes.
24. HSENI and DAERA enforce the Common Framework's regulatory regimes in Northern Ireland, which, in line with the Northern Ireland Protocol, will continue to follow the EU Regulations in Annex 1 of the FOA, excepting Directive 2009/128/EC for the sustainable use of pesticides, which is not included in the Northern Ireland Protocol. Northern Ireland is included under the UK chemicals regime for this directive.

EA

25. EA supports HSE in their role as the Agency under UK REACH by providing expert advice on environmental issues, and where relevant, other chemical and pesticides regimes as set out in Annex 4 of the FOA. EA collaborates with the other environmental regulators from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as appropriate when formulating its advice to HSE. A separate group has been established to do this and a working agreement has been developed in conjunction with relevant environmental regulators. Environmental regulator members of that group are expected to liaise with their respective government. EA will not normally engage directly with UKG or the Devolved Governments when formulating advice to HSE.

Approaches to decision-making

26. Decision-making processes should be clear and transparent to all Parties with open communication and integrated working to support the development of innovative solutions.

27. Policy officials will have discussions on the policy covered under this Common Framework and put advice to Ministers. This will include the rationale for an approach taken within a policy area (for example, a UK/GB-wide approach), or details on why divergent policies may be necessary. Decisions of appropriate significance, or if officials cannot come to an agreement on a decision, will be raised at the relevant working group.
28. The decision-making process below is in line with the established governance structure as set out above and at Annex D. The lowest level of joint decision-making between Parties to the Common Framework will be at a working group level. Decisions made at the working group will mostly be routine or technical; full details are set out in the terms of reference (ToR) for each group. The working groups may also take a view on a decision and make recommendations to the UKCGG for signoff.
29. Strategic decisions will be made at the UKCGG. Any Party may choose to escalate a decision to the UKCGG if they feel it requires such scrutiny and should be made with input from the Parties. Criteria for decision-making and escalation are embedded in the terms of reference of all groups.
30. Higher level decisions will be made by Ministers (or senior officials where appropriate), for instance, because the legislation requires it, or because of their contentious or political nature.
31. Whilst ensuring the need for independence in the opinion and decision-making process is maintained where appropriate, UKG and the Devolved Governments will engage with relevant regulators to ensure that the necessary information to make the required decisions is effectively shared. Each Party will share relevant information and scientific research in an open and transparent way within the limits of confidentiality and the Northern Ireland Protocol, further explained at paragraph 50, and paragraphs 84-88. Timelines for reaching a decision should be agreed by all the required Parties and take account of the timings and obligations outlined in relevant regulations.
32. All the Parties recognise there may be occasions where rapid resolutions will be needed. In these circumstances, timescales for escalation must allow for the differing clearance processes of all Parties and take account timescales set out in the relevant legislation.
33. The Parties commit to exercising their functions in an open and collaborative way, working with each other to identify and resolve any differences of opinion.

Decision-making in respect of Northern Ireland

34. The Agreement on the Withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU sets out the current arrangements where, although remaining within the UK's customs territory, Northern Ireland will remain aligned with the EU. The following paragraphs of Annex 2 of the Northern Ireland Protocol are relevant to this Common Framework;
 - 23 Chemicals and related; and

- 24 PPP and BPR will apply.
35. The Common Framework reflects the specific circumstances in Northern Ireland that arise as a result of the Protocol and remains UK wide in its scope. As such decision-making and information sharing will always respect the competence of all Parties to the Common Framework and in particular the provisions in Article 18 of the Protocol on democratic consent in Northern Ireland.
 36. Where one or more of UKG, SG and WG propose to change rules in a way that has policy or regulatory implications for the rest of the UK, or where rules in Northern Ireland change in alignment with the EU, the Common Framework is intended to provide governance structures and consensus-based processes for considering and managing the impact of these changes.
 37. Within NIE, DfE and DAERA share joint competence for REACH; DfE and the Department of Justice (DoJ) share joint competence in CLP (the remit of DoJ only covers civil explosives); DfE have sole competence for biocides; DfE have an interest in PIC where HSENI are the Designated National Authority; and DAERA have sole competence for PPP, POPs, mercury, and detergents.
 38. UKG, SG and WG will consider how to address any issues raised by the relevant NIE Departments, including potentially modifying their proposals to mitigate any negative impacts that may have been identified. Decision-making in respect of UKG, SG and WG -only proposals will rest with UKG, SG and WG, although consensus will still be sought between the four governments.
 39. Where NIE raises issues or concerns that it believes have not been satisfactorily addressed in respect of proposals from UKG, SG and WG; NIE should have the right to trigger a review of the issue, akin to the dispute resolution mechanism, albeit that the final decision will rest with the UKG, SG and WG.
 40. As rules evolve to meet the emerging regulatory needs of the UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments, the Common Framework will ensure the full participation of Northern Ireland in discussions such that the views of the relevant NIE Minister(s) are taken into account in reaching any policy or regulatory decisions by the UK, Scottish or Welsh Governments. Where rules in Northern Ireland change in alignment with the EU, the Common Framework will form the basis of a mechanism to ensure consideration by the four governments of any changes and will enable them to determine any impacts and subsequent actions arising from these changes.

Areas of joint decision-making

Priority setting

41. A core function of the governance arrangements outlined above is to agree and oversee priority-setting. Through monitoring changes in the national and international agenda, the Parties to this Common Framework will seek to provide high-level policy

direction subject to approval by Ministers across UKG and the Devolved Governments.

42. This Common Framework acknowledges the statutory and executive freedom of the UKG, SG, WG and the relevant NIE Department(s) to take different decisions in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. However, the Common Framework will serve as a mechanism by which to identify a UK-wide approach as appropriate. The Parties recognise differences in regulation across the UK could have regulatory, policy and financial impacts which need to be fully considered.

43. All the Parties acknowledge:

- differences in regulation across the UK could have regulatory, policy and financial impacts which need to be fully considered, and
- the benefits of providing consistency, as appropriate, in the interest of all (governments, industry, and third sector organisations), to facilitate and harmonise trade agreements and meet international obligations.

Resource allocation

44. The Parties will participate in discussions on resource allocation in order to ensure all regimes covered by this Common Framework are able to properly function. Resource allocations will be managed by agreements between the relevant Parties where appropriate.

45. When making decisions, the Parties will recognise the constraints in which HSE and EA, among other regulators, operate to deliver technical decisions and advice on behalf of UKG and the Devolved Governments. In this context, 'constraints' encompasses the following:

- time constraints which are detailed in regulation;
- resource and funding constraints that the regulators will face with respect to balancing UKG's and the Devolved Governments' priorities; and
- establishing mechanisms and maintaining the ability to monitor and take account of EU recommendations (as appropriate in the context of the various regulatory frameworks).

Programme of work

46. Priorities for work programmes will be reviewed by the UKCGG to enable the functioning of the UK chemicals regime.

47. The Parties to this Common Framework, in particular the HSE and EA, will provide information and reports to enable the UKCGG to consider work programmes and priorities for the year ahead.

Principles of working together

Communication

48. The Parties are committed to the principle of good, consistent, and frequent communication, especially where UKG's or the Devolved Governments' work may have some bearing upon the responsibilities of one or more of the other governments.
49. Against this background, and in confidence where necessary (see section on Confidentiality and Information below), the Parties will seek:
- to alert each other as soon as practicable of relevant developments within their areas of responsibility prior to publication, except where information is restricted or published in an emergency;
 - to give appropriate consideration to the views of the other Parties; and
 - to establish, where appropriate, jointly developed policies between the four governments in areas of shared responsibility.

Collaboration

50. To enable each Party to operate effectively, the Parties will aim to provide each other with as full and open as possible access to scientific, technical and policy information, including statistics and research, and, where appropriate, representations from third parties. These exchanges between the Parties may be subject to restrictions or requirements, such as those relating to confidentiality, and those captured in legislation. Each Party will aim to provide any information that may be reasonably requested by another Party to enable it to carry out its responsibilities effectively, provided:
- a) it would be lawful to do so (for example, by reference to the relevant regulatory framework, data protection principles and intellectual property considerations;
 - b) it is practicable;
 - c) it would not involve disproportionate cost;
 - d) the information is available in reasonably accessible form;
 - e) it does not compromise confidentiality or commercial agreements;
 - f) it is necessary for the roles or responsibilities of that organisation;
 - g) the emphasis will always be on exchanging information where this proves possible; and
 - h) this would not compromise the separation of functions required by legislation.
51. The Parties recognise co-operation is necessary to meet respective policy and business objectives. It is a collective responsibility to deliver official statistics and respond to requests from Ministers to required standards.

Stakeholder engagement

52. The Parties agree that consistent and clear communication with stakeholders is important to ensure the smooth running of the UK chemicals regimes and UK chemicals markets.

53. The Parties agree to deliver timely and consistent messages to stakeholders by utilising current methods of stakeholder engagement. Policy announcements affecting areas of devolved competence will not be made until the policies being announced have been formally agreed by the Parties concerned.
54. Methods for engagement with industry and other stakeholders will be reviewed and adapted to ensure, where necessary, all Parties are joined up in their stakeholder communication.

International obligations and negotiations

55. The Common Frameworks Principles agreed at JMC (EN) state that Common Frameworks will be established where necessary to ensure the UK can negotiate, enter into and implement new trade agreements and international treaties, and ensure compliance with international obligations. These principles were established in the context of an ambition for close working between the UKG and the Devolved Governments on reserved matters that significantly impact devolved responsibilities in Common Frameworks.
56. Common Frameworks will allow the Parties, in a timely manner, to ascertain the impact of international trade on managing UK policy divergence. All Parties to the Common Framework will consider any impact in a way that meets the requirements of the JMC (EN) principles. Common Frameworks will afford an opportunity to consider any implications stemming from international trade which have a direct bearing on the operation of a Common Framework. The scope of this consideration will not extend beyond Common Frameworks.
57. International policy formulation will be developed in line with the current Devolution MoU and its accompanying International Relations Concordat. International obligations will be implemented in line with these agreements. In this respect, the Parties will automatically use any updated IR Concordat, and the wider outcomes of the Joint IGR Review, as the basis for such international considerations.
58. There are a number of obligations imposed on the UK under the Stockholm, Rotterdam, Basel, and Minamata Conventions, and the United Nations Global Harmonised System, as detailed in Annex A.
59. Participation of WG, SG and the relevant NIE Department(s), in delegations formed for the purposes of negotiations will be determined in accordance with the appropriate intergovernmental structures without prejudice to the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Review or any existing arrangements.
60. In order to reduce the potential for disputes to arise to a minimum, the Parties commit themselves to the principles set out in this Common Framework and related agreements.
61. UKG and Devolved Governments will consult with each other in relevant areas on policy divergence that may relate to compliance with international obligations, such as where UKG, SG and WG, and NIE in so far as it remains aligned with the EU, have the option of 'going further' than international conventions.

62. The UK has taken up new obligations as an independent World Trade Organisation (WTO) member. Cross-departmental processes have been developed by Defra to ensure any new obligations are fulfilled, including consulting stakeholders on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) measures, notifying the committee of any change in SPS or TBT measures, responding to other nations' queries during the consultation period, and actively participating in committee work. The Common Framework is designed in a way that ensures the UK can continue to effectively fulfil its international obligations as a WTO member.
63. Where relevant, the Parties to this Common Framework will follow the governance arrangements and associated operational guidance on notifying SPS measures, which has been agreed by officials at the DA-Defra World Trade Organisation Operations and Trade Measures Board.
64. The DA-Defra World Trade Organisation Operations and Trade Measures Board includes trade leads and SPS policy and delivery body experts from UKG and the Devolved Governments. Where appropriate, the Board and its representatives will engage and communicate with Defra Common Framework working groups.
65. The Parties to this Common Framework agree to facilitate early engagement on relevant policy development, such as:
- developing a policy within the SPS context which will impact international trade or differ from international standards; and
 - work relating to Market Access issues or barriers within the SPS context.
66. The Department of International Trade (DIT) represents UK interests in WTO in relation to TBT, including the WTO TBT Committee. DIT has developed processes and structures to seek the views of industry and other interested parts of the UKG in relation to its TBT activities.
67. Within the current WTO notification process, UKG has ultimate responsibility for compliance with WTO agreements. Therefore, Defra policy teams will engage with the WG, SG, and the relevant NIE Department(s), when drafting measures and notifying. Where intra-GB divergence should occur, the government(s) in question would be responsible for drafting the notification (with support from Defra/HSE respectively, as appropriate), and Defra, or the Department for International Trade (DIT) in the case of Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), would submit the notification. Defra is not currently notifying on behalf of Northern Ireland.
68. The policy area covered by this Common Framework intersects with the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) and therefore topics relevant to the Common Framework may be considered from time to time by relevant TCA Specialised Committees or the Partnership Council. Where a UK-EU meeting agenda includes an item concerning implementation in an area of devolved competence, UKG should facilitate Devolved Government attendance of a similar level to that of the UKG representatives with final discretion as to the UK delegation a matter for the UK co-chair. UKG should engage the Devolved Governments as

fully as possible in preparation for these meetings regardless of attendance, and on all relevant implementation matters.

Intergovernmental relations review

69. Agreed outcomes of the ongoing intergovernmental relations review will be reflected in this Common Framework.

Dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism

70. As above, this Common Framework is intended to facilitate collaborative working between the Parties in order to arrive at agreed UK-wide positions. In cases where a UK-wide position cannot be agreed, the dispute resolution process in Annex B and detailed below shall be followed in order to ensure the UK chemicals regime continues until either an agreement is reached, or an appropriate solution can be found.
71. The aim of the dispute resolution mechanism is for issues to be discussed and resolved at the earliest stage possible. These arrangements will seek to provide opportunities for differences to be resolved at an official level wherever possible, and therefore reduce the need for issues to be escalated at every stage.
72. Alternative views are acceptable if they do not have a detrimental effect on the operation of any of the chemicals and pesticides regimes for any of the four governments, or if the alternative view is transitional in nature.
73. In this context, alternative views are where two or more Parties take differing views or interpretations of a particular issue. This view could be an acceptable difference in opinion/interpretation, unless it causes disruption that requires further dialogue to determine if agreement can be reached through compromise or other means.
74. Alternative views will become a disagreement and may trigger the dispute resolution procedure when they cannot be resolved by further dialogue at that level. The dispute resolution procedure will also be triggered in scenarios where the Parties agree that a common interpretation (or common opinion) cannot be found, or where the resultant impact of alternative views could negatively affect the ability to meet the Common Framework principles in Annex 2 of the FOA.
75. The Parties recognise they may have alternative views at any level and those alternative views may be resolved without requiring the dispute resolution procedure. For example, a clarification provided by an exchange of letters between the Parties may resolve a concern or potential issue.
76. The dispute resolution process should be utilised only when agreement cannot be reached. In some areas, commonality will not be needed in order to meet the JMC (EN) principles and therefore an 'agreement to disagree' would be acceptable.
77. Where a disagreement arises at a working group level, it will be referred to the UKCGG.

78. In circumstances where decision-making in respect of UKG, SG and WG-only proposals will most appropriately rest with UKG, SG and WG. Where possible, consensus will still be sought between the four governments. Where issues or concerns raised by the relevant NIE Minister(s) in respect of UKG, SG and WG -only proposals have not been satisfactorily addressed, they will have the right to trigger a review of the issue as set out in the dispute resolution process here, and at section 29 of the FOA.
79. For Efra regimes (all regimes excluding HSE-led regimes as specified in Annex 4 of the FOA) a disagreement that fails to be resolved at UKCGG level is escalated to the Senior Officials Programme Board (SOPB). If a disagreement is not resolved by the SOPB it is subsequently escalated to Ministers to consider, through the Inter-ministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (IMG-Efra). However, Ministers reserve the right to come to an agreed way forward outside of this forum. If this disagreement involves HSE in the capacity of their operational role with Efra regimes, then senior officials from HSE shall be asked to attend the SOPB. Ministers acting on behalf of HSE shall also be asked to participate in the IMG-Efra in order to be able to resolve the issue in question.
80. For non-Efra regimes where HSE is the UKG policy-lead (see Annex 4 of the FOA) if the disagreement fails to be resolved at a UKCGG level (in line with paragraph 78), this will be escalated for discussion between the parties at senior official/Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) level. If this is not resolved, then this will be further escalated to Ministers to liaise further.
81. The part of HSE acting as the Agency (for UK REACH and CLP) will remain neutral in any dispute resolution procedures between the four governments.
82. When an alternative view arises at either the working group level or the UKCGG level, the precise facts of the case will help determine what a reasonable time period to resolve the dispute would be, after which it may be inferred that the responding party does indeed have an opposing opinion. It is the responsibility of the notifying Party to set out clearly the facts of the dispute and the issues on which it believes there are differing views, in order to enable other Parties to respond to the issues raised.
83. If the dispute has been escalated to the highest level in the dispute resolution process and there is still disagreement, the disagreement may be referred to the overarching dispute resolution mechanism outlined in appropriate intergovernmental structures as a method of last resort. This is expected to be a method of last resort to be applied for only the most serious issues which cannot be resolved at portfolio level.

Confidentiality and information sharing

84. A Party to this Common Framework may receive a request for information from a member of the public or any other person under the Data Protection legislation (UK General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act

2018 (DPA)), Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), or other legislation.

85. If a Party receives a request for information that has been supplied by another party ('the information supplier'), the Party that has received the request for information will consult the information supplier as early as possible and before any information is disclosed in response to the request. This is to enable sufficient time for the views of the information supplier, including any objections to disclosure, to be taken into account when determining whether the information is to be disclosed or withheld.
86. If a Party receives a request for information that it holds and knows or believes the information is held by another Party or Parties, the Party that received the request will consult the other Party or Parties as early as possible and before any information is disclosed in response to the request. The purpose of this consultation is to ensure that all Parties that received the request are able to share any concerns about information that might be disclosed to the requester, that the Parties holding the information are able to take those concerns fully into account in their decision-making, and that Parties can co-ordinate their handling of requests (mainly to ensure that two or more of the Parties do not make different decisions about disclosing or withholding the same requested information).
87. The final decision as to whether requested information is to be disclosed or withheld rests with the Party that has received the request.
88. If a Party decides to voluntarily disclose or publish information received from another Party, it must obtain the written consent of the information supplier before disclosure occurs.

Entry into effect

89. The provisional Common Framework came into effect at 11PM on the 31 December 2020, to be superseded by the revised Common Framework following parliamentary scrutiny in 2022.
90. This Common Framework should not be interpreted as a binding agreement. It does not create legal obligations between the Parties.

Review and amendment mechanism

Review stage

91. The Review and Amendment Mechanism (RAM) ensures the Common Framework can adapt to changing policy and governance environments in the future.
92. The RAM relies on consensus at each stage of the process from the Ministers responsible for the policy areas covered in this Concordat.

93. Third parties can be used by any Party to the Common Framework to provide advice at any stage in the process. These include other government departments or bodies as well as external stakeholders.
94. At the outset of the review stage, the Parties must agree timelines for the process, including the possible amendment stage.
95. If agreement is not reached in either the review or amendment stage, the Parties to the Common Framework can raise it as a dispute through the Common Framework's dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism.
96. A periodic review of the Common Framework will take place every 3 years with the first review taking place six months on from the finalised Common Framework coming into force. The period of 3 years starts from the conclusion of a periodic review and any amendment stages that follow.
97. During the periodic review, the Parties to the Common Framework will discuss whether the governance and operational aspects of the Common Framework are working effectively, and whether decisions made over the previous year need to be reflected in an updated Concordat.
98. An exceptional review of the Common Framework is triggered by a 'significant issue'. A significant issue must be time sensitive and fundamentally impact the operation and/or the scope of the Common Framework.
99. The exceptional review may include a review of governance structures if all the Parties agree it is required. Otherwise, these issues are handled in the periodic review. The same significant issue cannot be discussed within six months of the closing of that issue.
100. Should a significant difference arise, which would lead to economic, societal, or environmental difficulties for Northern Ireland, under Article 16 of the Northern Ireland Protocol this would trigger a 'significant issue' review of the Common Framework to address and see if any amendments are required.

Amendment stage

101. The amendment stage can only be triggered through unanimous agreement by Ministers. Following agreement that all Parties wish to enter the amendment stage, the Parties will enter into discussion around the exact nature of the amendment. This can either be led by one Party to the Common Framework or all.
102. If an amendment is deemed necessary during either type of review, the existing Common Framework will remain in place until a final amendment has been agreed.
103. All amendments to the Common Framework must be agreed by all the Parties and a new Concordat signed by all Parties.

104. If the Parties cannot agree whether or how the Common Framework should be amended this may become a disagreement and as such could be raised through the Common Framework's dispute avoidance and resolution mechanism.

Annex A: International conventions and frameworks

A description of the relevant international conventions and agreements in scope of the Common Framework and the UK's obligations under each convention.

Minamata Convention

The Minamata Convention on mercury is a multilateral environmental agreement that addresses the whole life cycle of mercury to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic mercury emissions.

The UK, as a party to the Minamata Convention in its own right, is directly bound by its requirements. The obligations on the UK are extensive and cover a mix of devolved and reserved matters.

Obligations covering devolved matters include: a ban on mercury mining, a requirement to identify large stores of mercury and sources of mercury, controls on industrial processes, a ban on the use of mercury in gold mining, requirements to identify and control sources of emissions (to air) and releases (to land or water) of mercury, requirements on mercury storage facilities, requirements relating to mercury wastes, requirements relating to mercury contaminated sites and obligations to phase-down the use of dental amalgam.

Obligations covering reserved matters include: controls on import and export of mercury and mercury wastes, controls on mercury added products and requirements to cooperate internationally and facilitate the exchange of information.

The convention places an obligation on the UK to report a wide range of information to the secretariat.

Stockholm Convention

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is a multilateral treaty, which aims to protect human health and the environment through the elimination or restriction of the production and use of POPs (chemicals with persistent, bio-accumulative properties and the potential for long-range transport).

The UK is a signatory in its own right to the Stockholm Convention, and therefore is directly bound by its requirements. Under the Convention the UK is obliged to regulate the production, placing on the market and use of the POPs listed in the Convention's annexes, as well as safely managing stockpiles and wastes contaminated by POPs and targeting additional POPs.

As environmental policy is devolved, Defra consults with and informs WG, SG, and DAERA of any changes or processes regarding the Convention in order to represent the UK as a whole in policy, negotiations, and implementation.

This includes the UK's National Implementation Plan for POPs, which Defra produces with input from WG, SG, and DAERA, and which is signed off by WG, SG, and the DAERA Ministers prior to its adoption.

The convention places an obligation on the UK to report a wide range of information to the secretariat.

Rotterdam Convention

The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade is a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibilities in relation to importation of hazardous chemicals.

The UK is a signatory in its own right to the Rotterdam Convention and therefore is directly bound by its requirements. The UK is obliged to adhere to the Prior Informed Consent Procedure (PIC), which consists of a mechanism for formally obtaining and disseminating the decisions of importing parties as to whether they wish to receive future shipments of those chemicals listed as severely hazardous (Annex III).

Signatories to the convention must ensure compliance with the decisions made by importers.

The Rotterdam Convention is a United Nations treaty for which Defra is responsible, while the policy areas of protection of human health and the environment are devolved.

Import and export of chemicals is a reserved matter, except in relation to pesticides and fertilisers, where it is devolved.

The convention places an obligation on the UK to report a wide range of information to the secretariat.

Basel Convention

The Basel Convention provides a global system for controlling movements of hazardous and other wastes between countries. It aims to ensure that waste is managed in an environmentally sound manner without impacting human health. It details the prior notification and consent procedure to be followed when exporting waste and obliges parties to implement and enforce this control regime and to consider that illegal traffic in hazardous and other wastes is criminal. It requires that wastes are destined for facilities which can deal with them in an environmentally sound manner, that persons transporting or disposing of hazardous and other wastes are authorised to do so and that exports are appropriately packaged and labelled. It places general obligations on parties to ensure that the generation and transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes is reduced to a minimum and they have adequate disposal facilities.

International waste shipments is a reserved policy area. Under the UK Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations 2007, the UK regulators have responsibility for the regulation and enforcement of waste shipments.

The convention places an obligation on the UK to report a wide range of information to the secretariat.

Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

The United Nations Global Harmonised System (GHS) is a non-legally binding international framework which agrees criteria for classifying, labelling, and communicating the hazardous properties of chemicals. These criteria are then adopted as building blocks and implemented into national legislation. In England, Wales and Scotland, the majority of the implementation is within CLP, with the relevant aspects of Safety Data Sheets adopted via Annex II of REACH.

The UK attends the UN GHS in its own right. HSE acts as Head of Delegation for the UK on this matter but holds stakeholder groups which include the WG, SG and the relevant NIE Department(s), within their circulation.

The UK chairs one working group on amendments to key annexes on classification and labelling summary tables, codification of hazard statements, codification and use of precautionary statements, codification of hazard pictograms and examples of precautionary pictograms. The UK also co-chairs a working group on updating the GHS text to embed non-animal testing methodology within the classification criteria. There are numerous other working groups which are all attended by HSE – covering aspects such as practical classification and revision of mutagenicity criteria.

For changes to be adopted, they have to be discussed and agreed by consensus within the sub-committee meetings which are held in December and July - once agreed, changes will form part of the next edition of the GHS text.

Annex B: Dispute resolution process

A description of the dispute resolution process is included below:

Working group

The relevant working group (which could be the CDB, the PDB, the BDB or other working groups in relation to the operation of the chemicals regime) will consider the disagreement. If not resolved at this level, the working group will escalate the issue to the UKCGG or commission more work or discussion to ensure the disagreement has been fully explored.

UKCGG – dispute resolution initiation

The UKCGG aims to reach consensus where there are different views between the different Parties. If no solution is found, the UKCGG informs the Parties of the initiation of the dispute resolution process. UKCGG raises the issue to the Senior Officials Programme Board, or to senior officials/ SRO level to consider.

Senior Officials Programme Board (SOPB)/ senior officials

If the dispute cannot be resolved at the UKCGG, for Efra regimes, the issue is raised to the SOPB, which has senior official representation from Defra, WG, SG and DAERA. It performs a sifting/challenge role ahead of a ministerial level discussion. If no agreement is reached, the dispute is escalated to the IMG-Efra. For non-Efra regimes (where HSE is UKG policy lead) at this stage the dispute is escalated to senior officials/ SRO level.

IMG-Efra – Portfolio Ministers

For Efra regimes Ministers consider the dispute through IMG-Efra discussions. In case of no agreement reached by Ministers, the dispute can be escalated through appropriate intergovernmental structures. For non-Efra regimes at this stage the dispute is escalated to Portfolio Ministers to liaise further as necessary.

N.B.: A disagreement may be resolved at any stage of the dispute resolution process. Additionally, a dispute may be resolved at the working group level or UKCGG level by bilateral or multilateral correspondence/discussion between the Parties involved in the dispute.

Annex C: Agency agreements

The below agency agreements are available on the HSE website and can be found at www.hse.gov.uk/aboutus/howwework/Framework/2001-to-date.htm. To note, the three current PPP AAs are due to be re-drafted and re-issued, and a further AA for PPP Northern Ireland is due to be signed and come into force. Upon signing they will be added into this Common Framework.

- Agency agreement between Scottish Ministers and The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to biocidal products. Date in force: 12/02/21
- Agency agreement between the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to biocidal products. Date in force: 12/02/21
- Agency agreement between the Welsh Ministers and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to biocidal products. Date in force: 12/02/21
- Agency agreement between the Welsh Ministers and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to pesticides. Date in force: 12/02/21
- Agency agreement between Scottish Ministers and The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to pesticides. Date in force: 12/02/21
- Agency agreement between The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to pesticides. Date in force: 12/02/21
- Agency agreement between the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to detergents. Date in force: 12/02/21
- Agency agreement between the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland (DfE), the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to biocidal products. Date in force: 22/11/21
- Agency agreement between the Department for the Economy Northern Ireland (DfE), the Department of Justice Northern Ireland (DoJ NI) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures. Date in force: 22/11/21
- Agency agreement between the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland (DfE) and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland (DAERA) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) relating to the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals. Date in force: 22/11/21

Annex D: Governance structures and joint decision-making mechanisms

Diagram displaying an overview of the UK chemicals governance structure

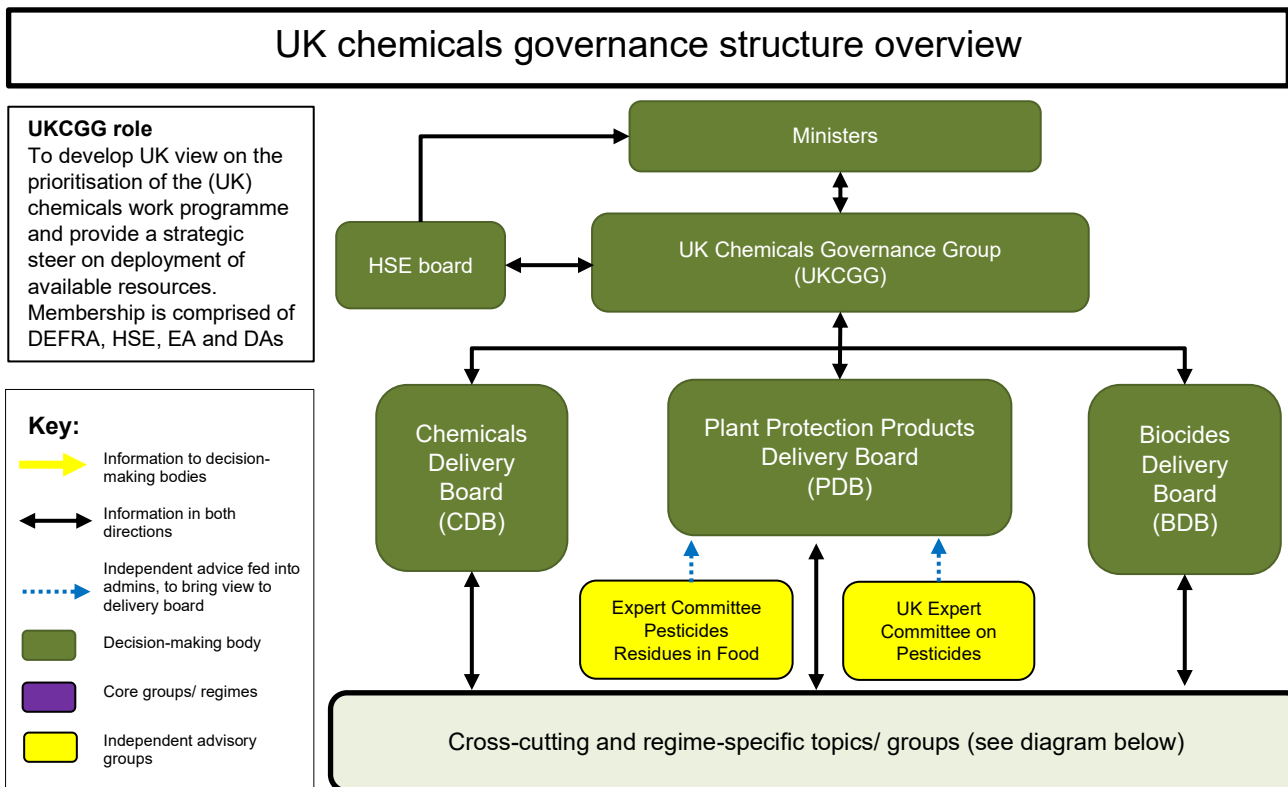
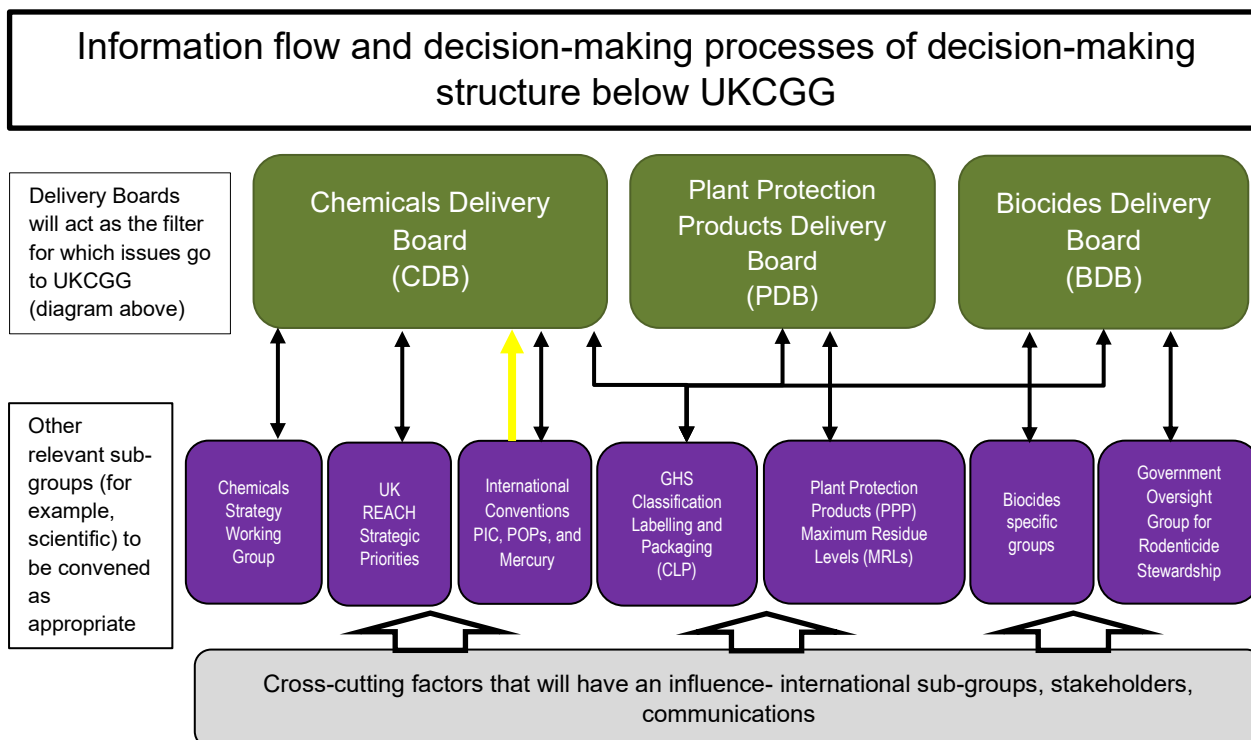


Diagram displaying the joint decision-making structures beneath the UKCGG



- The UK Chemicals Governance Group's (UKCGG) role is to develop the UK view on the prioritisation of the UK chemicals work programme. Membership is comprised of Defra, WG, SG and the relevant NIE Department(s), HSE, and EA. The UKCGG and the HSE board escalate decisions and issues to Ministers.
- Below the UKCGG is the second-tier decision-making structure, which comprises of the Chemicals Delivery Board (CDB), the Pesticides Delivery Board (PDB) and the Biocides Delivery Board (BDB), which act as the filter for which issues go to the UKCGG. The three delivery boards (the CDB, PDB and BDB) feed into the overarching UKCGG.
- Independent advisory groups, including the Expert Committee on Pesticides Residues in Food (PRiF) and the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) advise the relevant Parties through correspondence, and this advice is reflected in the way issues are then brought to the associated delivery boards.
- Cross-cutting and regime-specific topics and groups feed into the relevant delivery boards. The CDB handles UK REACH strategic priorities, issues relating to detergents, international conventions for PIC, POPs and Mercury, and has input/inputs into the chemicals' strategy working group. To note, the Basel convention is covered under international updates at the CDB, but primarily feeds into the waste governance boards which sit within the Resources and Waste Common Framework. The PDB covers Plant Protection Products (PPP) and Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs). The BDB covers biocides specific groups, and the government oversight group for rodenticide stewardship. All three groups have input into GHS classification labelling and packaging.
- Cross-cutting factors that will have an influence, including international sub-groups, stakeholders and communications feed into the relevant joint decision-making structures.

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