

Annex A – (i) A complete copy of the instructions given to the James Hutton Institute in relation to the Evidence Review

Note that some redactions have been applied to information contained in this annex under regulation 11(2) (personal data relating to a third party).

SPECIFICATION FOR REVIEW OF EVIDENCE ON OXO-BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC PRODUCTS

Purpose

This research specification sets out the actions needed to support Scottish Government (SG) officials and analysts in implementing Article 5 of the Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of certain plastic products on the environment (the EU SUP Directive).

Article 5 of the EU SUP Directive requires that all oxo-degradable plastic products are banned. The EU SUP Directive defines oxo-degradable plastic as meaning:

plastic materials that include additives which, through oxidation, lead to the fragmentation of the plastic material into micro-fragments or to chemical decomposition

The EU SUP Directive states products made from oxo-degradable plastic should be covered by the Directive as that type of plastic “does not properly biodegrade and thus contributes to microplastic pollution in the environment, is not compostable, negatively affects the recycling of conventional plastic and fails to deliver a proven environmental benefit”.

Manufacturers of oxo-biodegradable plastic products (a sub-set of oxo-degradables) claim that oxobiodegradable plastic products are sufficiently different and better for the environment than oxodegradables and so shouldn't be included in this ban of oxo-degradable plastic. Oxo-biodegradation has been defined by CEN/TR 15351:200611 as "degradation resulting from oxidative and cell-mediated phenomena, either simultaneously or successively"

A review of the evidence on the environmental harm of oxo-biodegradable plastic products is therefore required. The following proposal for an evidence review seeks to identify what is currently known about the impact of oxo-biodegradable plastic products on the environment. (For clarity, this research specification is not requesting any review of the evidence on the environmental harm of oxo-degradable plastic products as that is already stated in the EU SUP Directive.)

Analyses / Outputs

A review of all available evidence, published peer reviewed and grey literature to identify:

- An explanation of how oxo-biodegradable plastic products differ in comparison to oxodegradable plastic as defined in the EU SUP Directive.
- What oxo-biodegradable plastic products are on the market in Scotland

- The environmental impact of oxo-biodegradable plastic products
- Any differences in environmental impact between oxo-degradable and oxo-biodegradable materials

The required outputs are a fully referenced report, and a short accessible summary of the main findings.

Policy Sponsor

[REDACTED] is policy sponsor for this request.

Timing & Staff Days

The scale of available evidence on this topic is currently unknown. It is estimated that this review comprises approximately 5 days work.

Annex B – (ii) Any and all internal communications on the selection of the James Hutton Institute to carry out the Evidence Review

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5 documents in total.

Please refer to attached documents:

- 202200322513 - Annex B - Excerpt ITGF pack - Document 1
- 202200322513 - Annex B - 2022.01.24 - Document 1
- 202200322513 - Annex B - 2022.02.28 - Document 1
- 202200322513 - Annex B - 2022.03.02 - Document 1
- 202200322513 - Annex B - 2022.03.02 - Document 1 - Attachment 1

Annex C – (iii) Any and all internal communications explaining why a review of evidence into oxo-biodegradable plastic products was required and the scope of any instruction

Note that some redactions have been applied to information contained in this annex under regulation 11(2) (personal data relating to a third party) and regulation 10(4)(e) (internal communications).

2 documents in total.

Please refer to attached documents:

202200322513 - Annex C - 2022.01.24 - Document 1

202200322513 - Annex C - 2022.03.08 - Document 1

Annex D – (iv) All correspondence between the Scottish Government and the James Hutton Institute pertaining to the Evidence Review

Note that some redactions have been applied to information contained in this annex under regulation 11(2) (personal data relating to a third party) and regulation 10(5)(e) (confidentiality of commercial or industrial information).

14 documents in total.

Please refer to attached documents:

202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.03.10 - Document 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.03.11 - Document 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.03.11 - Document 2
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.03.11 - Document 2 - Attachment 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.03.11 - Document 2 - Attachment 2
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.03.16 - Document 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.03.17 - Document 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.03.17 - Document 1 - Attachment 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.04.11 - Document 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.05.13 - Document 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.07.19 - Document 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.08.10 - Document 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.08.18 - Document 1
202200322513 - Annex D - 2022.08.18 - Document 1 - Attachment 1