

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 24 January 2022 14:42
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: oxodegradables

Thanks [Redacted], here's the summary of the UCL work we've got at the moment. ZWS have asked for a full brief but this is still subject to final decisions being made on funding so the attached is what has been provided to ZWS and DEFRA. As discussed, initial timeframes provided indicate up to 6 months for the literature review and 2 years for field work. We would only be looking for the results of the literature review before progressing with our ban.

Quick bullets from our chat earlier on this:

- Article 5 of the EU SUP Directive requires that all oxo-degradable products are banned. Manufacturers of oxo-biodegradable products (a sub-set of oxo-degradables) claim that this substance is sufficiently different and better for the environment than oxo-degradables and so shouldn't be included in this ban. [Redacted];
- We have delayed banning oxo-biodegradable products because of the lack of evidence proving environmental harm specifically for these products;
- Planned UK wide research conducted by DEFRA has been cancelled and they are now relying on work to be performed by UCL. This is not funded by DEFRA but the option to offer funding to UCL is being considered;
- The UCL work will take up to 6 months for a literature review and 2 years for field work;
- Ms Slater is keen to progress a ban ASAP and we're concerned about the lack of control over timing and scope of the UCL work;
- We're therefore looking at other options available to us which can be summarised as an internal literature review performed by RESAS and/or ZWS, CRF funded piece of work, work performed by SRUC or JHI or other external provider; and
- You're going to run this by SRUC and JHI to see if they have some capacity to complete a review of the literature out there on this subject and if not we can consider an alternative external route in the first instance.

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 24 January 2022 14:08
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot

Hi [Redacted]

Thanks for the chat earlier. If you are able to share the details that you have on the UCL work for DEFRA, aims/objectives, timings, people involved, any known evidence, that would be very helpful for us to decide how to proceed.

Thanks
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 20 January 2022 14:24
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: CRF Call for Applications 2022/23 - Closure 7th February 2022
Importance: High

Hi [Redacted]

Following on from the email below from [Redacted], we're interested in alternative ways to fill our oxo-biodegradable plastics research gap, specifically the impact they have on the environment.

We had hoped DEFRA would procure a UK wide piece of research that covered this subject but they weren't able to find someone to do the work. UCL are performing a piece of work that DEFRA think could be suitable for their needs but is maybe not going to fit in with our timeframe. Ms Slater has been clear that she wants to make some progress on this soon.

I'll put something in the calendars early next week to discuss per your previous email if that's OK and we can discuss options.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 19 January 2022 09:25
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: CRF Call for Applications 2022/23 - Closure 7th February 2022
Importance: High

[Redacted], just to put down one marker at this stage for research to collate available evidence on environmental impacts of oxo-degradable products. We will consider wider opportunities and get back to you

[Redacted], this is timely given yesterday's update on risks to addressing our ongoing evidence gap, given uncertainty on other options previously being explored. Please could you pick up with [Redacted] and also consider with [Redacted] any other potential CRF projects that could support delivery of next stage of work on SUP?

[Redacted]- could you consider any opportunities in your policy areas please in discussion with Resas and we can collate short list of ideas.

[Redacted]- please could you also review and consider any potential priorities in relation to Litter/Flytipping and Food Waste interests

Note closure of this round on 7 Feb
[Redacted]

By email 08/03/22

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 08 March 2022 12:29
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Oxo-degradables research

Thanks for moving this on and agree [Redacted] it would be important for you/Resas to join the call.

Could you/[Redacted] and [Redacted] then discuss and agree respective roles of Resas and ZW Unit as policy team as the work progresses?

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 08 March 2022 12:20
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Oxo-degradables research

Hi [Redacted],
No not too soon at all☺. I'm happy to join that if I can. I will follow up with [Redacted] on finance now and maybe we can touch on it in the meeting too if helpful.
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 08 March 2022 12:11
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Oxo-degradables research

Apologies [Redacted] we've set up a meeting on Friday this week with her. I can rearrange if that's too soon?

Regards,

[Redacted]
From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 08 March 2022 12:10
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Oxo-degradables research

Hi [Redacted]

I have not seen any further correspondence between yourselves and [Redacted]. Just wanted to make sure you have not set a meeting with her yet? I also need to go back to her to discuss the finance side of things.

Cheers
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 02 March 2022 14:50
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Oxo-degradables research

Hi [Redacted],

It all seems good with [Redacted] for doing the review. I think her 6-8 weeks timeframe is reasonable but if you need it sooner we could try to push her. Again I think it really depends on how much material there is out there to review.

I think a short chat with her would probably be helpful if only just to do proper introductions.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 01 March 2022 11:31
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Oxo-degradables research

Hi,

That's great, thanks [Redacted]. I will send this over to [Redacted] to start a conversation about timings. I'm sure we can always refine if [Redacted] come back with anything.

I will copy you in. Once we get the review up and running I hope that you will be able to take the lead on coordinating with [Redacted] as we are rather stretched in our team just now.

Cheers
[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]@gov.scot
Sent: 28 February 2022 17:01
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot, [Redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Oxo-degradables research

Thanks [Redacted]

I think your spec looks good. I've added the word plastic after oxo-degradables throughout to be crystal clear it's plastic products we're talking about. Whether oxo-biodegradable plastic products have a negative environmental impact is the key thing here and if there's no evidence out there then the final bullet point considering whether there's any difference between oxo-degradable and oxo-biodegradable products could be very helpful.

I've sent it on to [Redacted] for a quick read over in case there's anything they think is missing and then I'll get back to you.

Regards,

[Redacted]