

Plant Biosecurity Strategy – Call for Ideas

We would like to invite members of the Plant Health Alliance to input into a call for ideas for the Plant Biosecurity Strategy. In light of current circumstances, we would like to stress that this is only the initial call for ideas to inform the strategy and that engagement will continue throughout the rest of 2020. We understand that many of your members may have competing priorities at this time and would like to encourage comments only where people are able to do so.

In 2014, Defra published the Plant Biosecurity Strategy for Great Britain. This strategy had several key successes including the establishment of the publicly available risk register, which allows prioritisation of activity to tackle key pests. Defra are now looking to refresh this strategy, building upon the work achieved to date in order to continue to deliver a step change in plant health protections.

Government alone cannot tackle threats to plant health which is why this strategy will be designed as a collaborative effort between government, industry, NGOs, landowners and the public. We want to ensure that everyone is aware of the part they have to play in plant biosecurity, is alert to the risks and is acting on their responsibilities to minimise those risks.

Defra are seeking your ideas on the revised approach to biosecurity to be included strategy. We welcome all ideas though would particularly be interested in your thoughts to answer:

- What does biosecurity mean to you and your line of work?
- What are government, industry, NGOs, landowners and the public doing well that we should build upon?
- What should they be doing differently?
- What opportunities does leaving the EU offer to improve our biosecurity?
- How can we raise awareness of the importance of plant biosecurity and equip everyone with the right knowledge and tools, which will enable them to play their part?
- How can we make use of emerging, innovative science and technology, as well as harnessing data to support a world class biosecurity system?
- How do you think Government should communicate the strategy to businesses and the wider industry?

Ideas and responses should be sent to the following Inbox: plantbiosecuritystrategy@defra.gov.uk.

This inbox will remain open for the duration of the strategy's development so we would welcome your comments at any time. A first review of the comments will take place at the end of the summer, though consultation will continue throughout autumn 2020 with an online workshop to be scheduled with the Plant Health Alliance in September.

We want to ensure that the strategy includes input and activities from all sectors, so we can develop a world class approach to biosecurity.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Defra's Plant Health Team