

Web: www.defra.gov.uk



Date: 24th July 2012

Dear Consultee

Informal consultation on new Sustainable Development Indicators

I write to invite your views on the Government's proposals for a revised set of Sustainable Development Indicators for the UK Government. Responses are requested by 15th October 2012.

The following documents may be found on Defra's website: www.defra.gov.uk/consult/open/

List con-docs:

- Consultation document
- Annex I - proposed Sustainable Development Indicators (SDIs)
- Annex II – previous SDIs
- Annex III – previous SDI survey summary
- Annex IV – previous SDI survey: stakeholder comments

We welcome your views and comments on our proposals. You also can read about the proposals, email the team and respond via an online survey at: <http://sd.defra.gov.uk/new-sd-indicators/>.

If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation, please email Defra's sustainable development team at: sd.scene@defra.gsi.gov.uk or write to:

Defra - SDI Consultation
Area 1 C
Nobel House
Smith Square
Westminster
SW1P 3JR

Responses

These indicators are being published as a provisional set of SDIs, with the feedback from the consultation informing the indicator set from 2013 onwards. A response to the consultation will be published by December 2012 this will be accompanied by initial changes to the indicators where appropriate.



Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/consultation-guidance.

Criterion one - When to consult

- Formal consultation should take place at a stage when there is scope to influence the policy outcome.

Criterion two - Duration of consultation exercises

- Consultations should normally last for at least 12 weeks with consideration being given to longer timescales where feasible and sensible.

Criterion three - Clarity of scope and impact

- Consultation documents should be clear about the consultation process, what is being proposed, the scope to influence and the expected costs and benefits of the proposals.

Criterion four - Accessibility of consultation exercises

- Consultation exercises should be designed to be accessible to, and clearly targeted at, those people the exercise is intended to reach.

Criterion five - The burden of consultation

- Keeping the burden of consultation to a minimum is essential if consultations are to be effective and if consultees' buy-in to the process is to be obtained.

Criterion six - Responsiveness of consultation exercises

- Consultation responses should be analysed carefully and clear feedback should be provided to participants following the consultation.

When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in Defra's library at Ergon House, Horseferry Road, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be made publicly available, please clearly say so in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep your details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation, but because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at www.defra.gov.uk/consult/closed/. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

To see consultation responses and our summary, please contact the Defra library at:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Information Resource Centre
Lower Ground Floor
Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020 7238 6575

Email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Please give the library 24 hours' notice. Please note, there is a charge for photocopying and postage.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 2D Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR, or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

The Sustainable Development Unit