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**Food and Green Economy**

Area 8E, 9 Millbank, c/o 17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

**Date:** 16 October 2012

**Consultation on the Abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board, Agricultural Wages Committees, and Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to invite your views on the proposed abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales (AWB), and the Agricultural Wages Committees (AWCs) and Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees (ADHACs) for England. Although the Government's preferred option is to abolish these bodies, Ministers are willing to consider alternatives to abolition and would like to know the views of respondents before reaching a final decision. The consultation will run from 16 October 2012 and end on 12 November 2012.

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

Consultation letter  
Consultation document  
Impact Assessment  
Equality Impact Assessment  
List of Consultees

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals contained in the consultation document. However, for ease of reference, we are including a number of questions to which we would very much welcome your response.

1. Do you agree that employment legislation in the agriculture sector should be simplified? If not, please give your reasons.
2. Do you agree that agricultural workers in England and Wales should be brought within the same minimum employment terms and conditions as workers in all other sectors of the economy? If not, please give your reasons why you believe there should still be a separate regime for agriculture.
3. Do you agree with the Government's proposal to abolish the Agricultural Wages Board, Agricultural Wages Committees, Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees, and the agricultural minimum wage regime? If not, please give your reason why you disagree?

4. Do you have any additional points or options you would like Ministers to consider before making their final decision?

A copy of the consultation document will be made available upon request (Tel. 020 7238 6523).

Please send your responses to

**Mr Dermot McInerney**  
**Area 8E, 9 Millbank**  
**c/o 17, Smith Square**  
**LONDON**  
**SW1P 3JR**

or email him at [awbconsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:awbconsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk). Responses should be received by **12 November 2012**.

This consultation is in line with the Government's Consultation Principles. These can be found at [www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/consultation-guidance](http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/consultation-guidance).

When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is in order 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 publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep 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/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/). 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 summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra  
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](mailto:defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Please give the library 24 hours' notice. 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 7B Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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,

**Susanna May**

**Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs**

Email: [susanna.may@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:susanna.may@defra.gsi.gov.uk)