

## Plant Varieties and Seeds Committee

### Provisional Protocol - International Representation and Coordination

#### Principles

- The purpose of this protocol is to describe how coordination of UK positions at international fora is achieved and what national expertise is required to represent the UK at these fora.
- Vacant posts and UK representatives from Defra, DAERA, Scottish Government and Welsh Government will be agreed by the PVSC and, where necessary, with the assistance of the NLSC.

#### Protocol

1. For each international meeting attended, the relevant lead representative for that meeting is responsible for organising a pre-meeting with UK colleagues and experts to agree the UK position at a suitable time and at least one week ahead of the meeting.
2. The lead representative will ensure that relevant papers are circulated/made available ahead of this pre-meeting when they become available.
3. UK positions and comments are agreed in these pre-meetings in accordance with the policy direction set by the PVSC and the technical advice provided by the NLSC and relevant technical sub-committees, ahead of UK participation at the international fora meeting.
4. Papers to be agreed by correspondence (instead of via a pre-meeting) will be sent to PVSC members or their relevant nominated person in a timely manner to allow for comments to be submitted.
5. After the international meeting, the lead representative is responsible for ensuring suitable reporting back, within 10 working days, on the outcome of the meeting usually in the form of a meeting report to be circulated to, at least, the PVSC and NLSC and other suitable colleagues from Defra, DAERA, Scottish Government and Welsh Government with relevant interest.
6. Representation at these meetings is provided by delegates from the relevant authorities in the UK with suitable expertise determined by the NLSC or PVSC where appropriate as described in the following table. If there is more than one representative attending the meeting, then a lead representative will be agreed ahead of attendance.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Representative(s)</b>
International Union of the Protection of	Council	PVR policy expert
	Consultative Committee	PVR policy expert

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Representative(s)</b>
New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) <sup>1</sup>	Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ)	PVR policy expert
	Technical Committee	PVR delivery expert
	Technical Working Party for Agricultural Crops (TWA)	PVR delivery expert for agricultural crops
	Technical Working Party for Ornamental Plants and Forest Trees (TWO)	PVR delivery expert for ornamental plants and forest trees
	Technical Working Party for Vegetables	PVR delivery expert for vegetables
	Technical Working Party for Fruit Crops (TWF)	PVR delivery expert for fruit
	Technical Working Party on testing methods and techniques (TWM)	PVR delivery expert for BMT
	Enlarged Editorial Committee	PVR delivery expert
	Meeting on the development of an electronic application form	PVR delivery and PVR policy expert
	Working group on possible international system of cooperation	PVR policy expert
	Working Group on harvested material and unauthorised use of propagating material (WG-HRV)	PVR policy and delivery expert
	Working Group on guidance concerning smallholder farmers in relation to private and non-commercial use (WG-SHF)	PVR policy and delivery expert
Organisation for Economic Co-	Annual meeting of the OECD	Seed marketing delivery expert and a policy expert

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Representative(s)</b>
operation and Development Seed Schemes (OECD)	Technical Working Group Meeting of the OECD Seed Schemes	Seed marketing delivery expert/policy expert
	Ad-hoc technical working group, when invited	Seed marketing delivery expert/policy expert
International Seed Testing Association (ISTA)	ISTA Annual Meeting	Chief Officer(s) from the UK's OSTs <sup>2</sup> (s) coordinated by Defra
	ISTA Congress	Chief Officer(s) from the UK's OSTs (s) coordinated by Defra <sup>3</sup>
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	Working Party on agricultural quality standards which is applied to trade in seed potatoes	Seed potato marketing delivery/policy expert
European Seed Certification Agencies Association (ESCAA)	Annual meeting	Certification delivery experts
European VCU Platform	EU-VCU expert group meeting	Expert in variety testing/registration

<sup>1</sup> To maintain oversight, the team leader for the delivery of UK PVR will be a named contact for each of the technical working parties/groups.

<sup>2</sup>.Official Seed Testing Station

<sup>3</sup> Voting member will be the longest serving Chief Officer at the UK's OSTs unless agreed otherwise.

7. The PVSC secretariat will maintain a list of suitable candidates (as determined by NLSC or PVSC where appropriate) for likely attendance, and individuals they are required to coordinate with. This list will also include a distribution list for the back to office reports as per paragraph 5.

8. If any additional meetings, to those described in the table in point 6, are attended, the UK position is agreed as in points 1 to 4 above and reporting back as in point 5.
9. Attendance is funded by the Authority the representative belongs to<sup>1</sup>. Opportunities should be made available for additional colleagues to attend in a training capacity, especially in instances of hybrid and virtual meetings that could allow for upskilling without any significant increase in costs.
10. The acceptance of an offer to host in the UK any of the meetings described in the table in point 6 shall be notified to the PVSC and NLSC and efforts made to ensure all participants can have representatives at any relevant UK held international meetings.

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<sup>1</sup> Defra funds AFBI attendance at UPOV Technical Working Parties every 1 in 3 years.