



Corporate & Forestry Support Plant Health Service

Silvan House
231 Corstorphine Road
Edinburgh
EH12 7AT

Tel: 44(0)131 314 6401
Fax: 44(0)0131 314 6148
Mob: 44(0)7831 843985

Email: roddie.burgess@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

15 July 2008

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on future management of risks from *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae*

1. I am writing to invite views on the right way to manage the risks from two fungal pathogens of plants - *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae*.

The following documents may be found on Defra's website at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/phytophthora-ram-kern/>

- Defra's Consultation letter
- List of Defra consultees
- Joint Defra/Forestry Commission/Welsh Assembly Government Consultation paper
- Pest risk assessment for each disease
- Partial Impact Assessment

A copy of this consultation letter and a list of Forestry Commission consultees may be viewed at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4ubhus>. A copy of the joint news release can be viewed at

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/AllByUNID/2E1B168FE13AA50E8025748300342A96>

. If you would prefer printed copies of the consultation paper, the pest risk assessments and the partial impact assessment, these can be ordered free of charge from Sheila Inglis either by e mail (sheila.inglis@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) or by phone: 0131 314 6414.

2. This consultation is relevant to a wide cross-section of people and organisations, including relevant trade bodies, importers of plants, commercial growers, owners and managers of woodland, heathland, historic gardens and private householders and other groups we know to have an interest in the host plants, including trees, of these diseases.
3. Defra and the Forestry Commission are the lead departments in managing the diseases in England; the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate and the



National Assembly for Wales Agriculture Department share responsibility with the Forestry Commission in their respective territories.

4. This consultation is being directed by Defra, in respect of non-forestry issues, to stakeholders in England and Wales only. The Forestry Commission is consulting forestry stakeholders across Great Britain. An equivalent exercise is being undertaken in respect of non-forestry stakeholders in parallel in Scotland.

Background

5. *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae* are thought to have arrived in Great Britain within the last ten to twenty years and have the potential to injure or kill trees and cause serious disease on garden shrubs. The current policy is one of containment and eradication. After 5 years of executing this policy the diseases are continuing to spread, albeit slowly and mainly in the southern and western part of Great Britain.
6. This consultation exercise provides an opportunity to contribute to a review of our policy towards each disease and comment on options for their management in the future.
7. We will be interested to receive comments on all aspects concerning *Phytophthora ramorum* and *Phytophthora kernoviae*, but are particularly interested in replies to the questions outlined in the consultation paper. We are also interested in views on the partial Impact Assessment and whether the figures included in that document reflect reasonable estimates. This is particularly important, as the outcome of the Impact Assessment will have a strong influence on the development of future policy.

Responses

8. Please send responses to:
Margaret O'Donnell
Defra
Foss House (Ground Floor)
1 – 2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

or email them to maildivertpolicyunit@defra.gsi.gov.uk
9. Responses should be received by **10 October** at the latest.

Consultation meetings

- 10 Defra and the Forestry Commission are intending to hold consultation meetings to discuss this issue, initial meetings have been arranged in Cornwall on 29 July and in London on 31 July. A further meeting may be held in York towards the end of the consultation period. Details of the meetings can be seen at www.defra.gov.uk/planth/pramconsult.htm. Please let Margaret O'Donnell know if you would be interested in attending such a meeting (margaret.o'donnell@defra.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 01904 641000).

Consultation criteria

11. This consultation has been prepared in line with the Government's code of practice which can be found at <http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/>
12. When this consultation ends, Defra will put a copy of the responses in the their library at Ergon House, 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.
13. 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 in your e mails, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

14. 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 the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp> and the Forestry Commission website at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/hcou-4ubhus>. These summaries will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.
15. 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

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

16. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Marjorie Addo, Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hattie Smyth', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Head of Plant Health