



ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

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Dear Sir/Madam

ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION STUDY ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN THE UK

INVITATION TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY

After considering the responses to the shortlist published in January this year, the Royal Commission has now decided to carry out a study on "The environmental impacts of demographic change in the UK". Each of the other topics on the shortlist received support from a number of respondents, and will be retained on a long list of possible subjects for future study.

The Commission has chosen to study this topic because it believes that demographic change is likely to have important environmental consequences and that these need to be carefully considered against the background of additional pressures due to climate change. Although there may be an increasing understanding of the way the UK population is changing - and much thought is already being given to the social and economic implications of these changes - it seems that little attention has so far been paid to their environmental consequences or to the effect of the environment on demographic change within the UK. The Commission considers that this is an area in which it can make a useful and timely contribution without duplicating any work already being carried out by others.

The preliminary phases of the new study will overlap with the final stages of the current study on Adapting the UK to Climate Change. The new study will begin later this year: the current aim is to invite the submission of detailed evidence in the Autumn and to publish a report towards the end of 2010. Since the scope of the topic is potentially enormous, the Commission first wishes to consider in some detail how to organise the study, which issues should be covered and who should be invited to submit evidence.

The Commission is interested in looking at the two-way interactions between environment and population so, as well as considering which aspects of

demographic change are likely to have the most significant impact on the environment and what might be done to respond to them, it will also wish to consider reciprocal effects, such as, for example, how environmental change might affect population movements. On the basis of the comments already sent to the Commission, the initial view is that the following broad themes might be among those covered by the study:

- Direct impacts such as overall population size, household numbers
- Changes in age, ethnicity and spatial distributions
- Family and household structures
- Population movements within the UK
- Population pressures on the land eg for housing, food production, recreational space, transport, energy and water requirements, waste disposal
- Indirect impacts eg on the views and behaviours of different groups, which may in turn have environmental implications
- The effects of environmental change on population movements eg moving away from flood risk areas

This list is not intended to be comprehensive or definitive: we would welcome your views on these themes, your thoughts on what environmental impacts might give rise to particular concern and any other information that you consider could help the Commission to set the scope of the study. In this first phase we are seeking to gain an overview of current thinking and to gather sufficient background information to enable the Commission to decide how best to approach the topic, which aspects are most likely to benefit from investigation and in what way its report might be most valuable. It is likely that a seminar will be arranged for later this year or early 2010 and any suggestions for its focus would also be welcomed.

We would be most grateful for your comments and suggestions by Friday, 12 June. These can be posted to me at the address shown above, or e-mailed to yolanda.rizzi@rcep.org.uk. If you have any queries, please contact me on 020 7270 8137. Please also let me know if you think we have overlooked any organisations or individuals who may wish to comment or provide relevant information.

It is the Commission's normal policy to publish the information it receives on its website, so please make it clear if you do not wish your comments to be publicly available.

Yours faithfully,

YOLANDA RIZZI
Assistant Secretary to the Commission

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Drinking Water Inspectorate
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Environment Protection UK
Environmental Change Institute
European Environment Agency
Food Standards Agency
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Forum for the Future
Foundation for Science and Technology
Friends of the Earth
Friends of the Earth Cymru
Friends of the Earth Scotland
Geological Society of London
Government Office of Science
Graham Rice Ineos Bio
Grantham Institute for Climate Change

Greater London Authority	Office of Science and Innovation
Green Alliance	Ofgem
Greenpeace UK	Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology
Health and Safety Executive	PREPARE
Health Protection Agency	Professor Holgate (former member)
HM Treasury	Professor Howard Wheater (Director, Imperial College Environment Forum)
Home Office	Recoup Recycling
House of Commons Select Committee on Energy and Climate Change	Research Councils UK
House of Commons, Environmental Audit Select Committee	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health
House of Commons, Select Committee on Environment Food and Rural Affairs	Royal College of Physicians
House of Commons, Select Committee on Health	Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
House of Commons, Select Committee on Innovation, Universities and Skills	Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh
House of Lords, Science and Technology Select Committee	Royal Meteorological Society
Institute for Public Policy Research	Science Advisory Council
Institute of Biology	Science and Technology Facilities Council
Institute of Directors	Science and Technology Policy Research Unit (SPRU)
Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining	Science Media Centre
Institute of Physics	Scottish Environment Link
Institution of Mechanical Engineers	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Irish Congress of Trade Unions	Scottish Government - Finance & Sustainable Growth Department
Jade Mepham-Ellis	Scottish Government - Health & Wellbeing Department
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	Scottish Government - Rural Affairs and the Environment Department
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	Scottish Natural Heritage
London School for Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Scottish Rural Property and Business Association
Marine Conservation Council	Scottish Trade Union Congress
Medical Research Council	Society of Chemical Industry
Ministry of Defence	Soil Association
Ministry of Justice	Stockholm Environment Institute
National Farmers Union	Sustainable Development Commission
National Farmers' Union Scotland	The Academy of Royal Medical Colleges
National Physical Laboratory	The British Academy
Natural England	The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science
Natural Environment Research Council	The Chartered Institute for Environmental Health
NERC public sector and parliamentary liaison	The ESRC Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society
New Economics Foundation	The Hadley Centre For Climate Change
Northern Ireland	The Homes and Communities Agency
Northern Ireland Environment Link	The International Migration Institute
Northern Ireland Local Government Association	The Local Government Association
Northern Ireland Office	The National Assembly of Wales
Nuffield Foundation	The National Trust
	The Oxford Institute of Ageing

The Prince's Foundation for Integrated Health
The Royal Academy of Engineering
The Royal Society
The Royal Society for the Arts
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
The Royal Society of Chemistry
The Royal Society of Edinburgh
The Scottish Parliament
The Scottish Parliament - Economy, Energy
and Tourism Committee
The Scottish Parliament - Health and Sport
Committee
The Scottish Parliament - Rural Affairs and
Environment Committee
The Scottish Parliament - Transport,
Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee

The Town and Country Planning Association
The Tyndall Centre for Climate Change
The Wildlife Trusts
Trades Union Congress (UK)
UK Climate Impacts Programme
UK Energy Research Centre
UK Environmental Law Association
UK Permanent Representation to the
European Union
Ulster Farmers Union
Wales Environment Link
Wales Trade Union Council
Waste & Resources Action Programme
(WRAP)
Water UK
Waterwise
Wellcome Trust
Welsh Assembly - Social Justice and Public
Service Delivery Department
Welsh Assembly - Sustainability and Rural
Development Department
Welsh Local Government Association
World Wide Fund for Nature UK