

Review of JNCC - stakeholder views

ALERC Response

Introduction to this questionnaire

Defra and the Devolved Administrations are conducting a joint review of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) to establish the most effective and efficient delivery model, across the UK, for the functions performed by the JNCC now and in the future.

JNCC is a public body with a statutory remit to advise the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on UK-wide and international nature conservation. Its statutory functions include: i) providing advice on nature conservation issues which affect the UK as a whole or internationally; ii) establishing common standards for the monitoring or, and research, into nature conservation; and iii) supporting or commissioning research and analysing the resulting information. It carries out a range of statutory and non-statutory functions for the UK Government and some other organisations to help them deliver objectives associated with: biodiversity evidence, shared UK approaches (such as guidelines and standards), EU & international, marine protected areas (MPAs) and sustainable management of the offshore marine environment. JNCC's grant in aid budget is funded jointly by Defra and the Devolved Administrations and JNCC also receives some additional funding from other sources including other Government departments. Further information about JNCC's work can be found on www.jncc.gov.uk

We are keen to gather evidence to inform the review from JNCC's stakeholders and partners to understand your views on JNCC's role now and in the future through the questions asked below.

1. Stakeholder details

Name: **Tom Hunt**

Organisation: **Association of Local Environmental Records Centres**

Email Address: **tom.hunt@...**

2. What are the key activities that JNCC currently undertakes for you?

Our members rely on the JNCC as an important part of the UK's network of conservation organisations. It is their technical output that is of highest importance in a few key areas.

The first is the production of the spreadsheet of species of designations. This spreadsheet contains a list of species in the UK which are fall under one or several of a number of designations which provide varying degrees of legal protections or require the species to be considered by decision makers. For anyone working with wild species or data on wild species, this is crucial information. It is kept up to date and provide in a meaningful way, particularly with the use of the UK species dictionary, so it is easily intelligible.

Another area of major importance is the JNCC support for database software for recording UK species and habitats. The current version of the software is Recorder 6 and a vital tool to

ensure wildlife information can be stored and reported on in an efficient, precise and standardised way. JNCC's support for Recorder 6, and its work leading the sector towards the next generation of database software, are highly valued.

3. What does JNCC do well and what could be improved?

JNCC's expert knowledge is the key to its success and this needs to be maintained.

The main improvement needs to come in communication, both in terms of talking to stakeholders (such as informing them in due time when a round of Article 17 reporting is due) and listening to stakeholders (such as on the subject of any replacement for Recorder 6).

4. To what extent does JNCC provide value for money in what it does for you?

Very high	High	Adequate	Poor	Very poor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Very high	<input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	<input type="checkbox"/> Very poor

Additional comments

5. Looking to the future, should JNCC refocus its resources on new areas of work or are there any areas it should be focusing fewer resources on?

JNCC's funding should be retained on all the areas of work mentioned above, the areas where our members rely on it the most. This should not be at the expense of any other areas of work however, or anywhere else in the environment budget. Now is not the time to be cutting the environment budget.

6. Are there other organisations that could deliver JNCC's existing activities or parts of these? Please specify the organisations and activities.

No.

Thank you very much for your responses and input in to the JNCC review. If we have specific follow up questions we will get in touch.

If you have any queries please contact jnccreview@defra.gsi.gov.uk