

**GB COMMITTEE FOR NON-NATIVE SPECIES
SIXTH MEETING**

**VIRTUAL
23 OCTOBER 2023, 15:45 – 16:45**

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Attendance / apologies

Present:

- Richard Pullen (Defra) – *Chair*
- Olaf Booy (NNSS) - Secretary
- Sharon Boyle (Defra)
- Finn Eaton (Defra)
- Sarah Errington (MMO)
- Leasa Fielding (Welsh Government)
- Richard Gray (DAERA – NI)
- Rebecca Isted (FC)
- Theresa Kudelska (NRW)
- Jo Long (SEPA)
- Bill MacDonald (Welsh Government)
- Lisa McCann (Scottish Government)
- Gavin Measures (NE)
- Berni Moloughney (Scottish Government)
- Niall Moore (NNSS)
- Neil Parker (NRW)
- James Phillips (NE)
- Mark Preston (DAERA – NI)
- Trevor Renals (Environment Agency)
- Alison Seton (Scottish Government)
- Nicola Spence (Defra, Plant Health)
- Jenny Stewart (APHA)
- Stan Whitaker (NatureScot)

Apologies:

- Chris Graham (MMO)
- Colin Edwards (Scottish Forestry)
- Dave Rowlands (MMO)
- Dave Stone (JNCC)
- Des Thompson (NatureScot) – replaced by Stan Whitaker
- Nicholas Greenwood (MMO)
- Peter Pollard (SEPA – replaced by Jo Long)
- Sarah Wood (NRW)

2. Minutes of meeting on 24 April 2023

Paper circulated (Cte Oct 23-02)

The minutes were signed off with no modifications.

3. Actions and matters arising

Paper circulated (Cte Oct 23-03)

All actions had been completed apart from actions 2 and 6. For Action 2 (sending out the fiches for the species proposed for listing) this will happen shortly – see Item 5. Finn reported on Action 6 (on Defra drafting and sharing a submission for Ministers on *G. manicata*) – this may now just be a note and they are waiting until a scientific report has been produced.

4. De-listing of species of special concern

Paper circulated (Cte Oct 23-04)

Finn introduced the paper updating on progress with de-listing. He outlined three options for taking the SI forward: (i) England and Wales to use the Regulation powers to de-list with a delay in the commencement date to ensure that Scotland's de-listing is at the same time; (ii) England and Wales de-list and the UK Internal Market Act provisions kick in or; (iii) The REUL Act is used to bring in the de-listing across all of GB.

Lisa stated that option 1 seemed to be optimal but that she would have to consult Scottish Government lawyers. Lisa and Finn agreed that the next step was for Defra and Scottish Government lawyers to discuss and agree the best approach.

ACTION 1: Finn and Lisa to link their respective lawyers to ensure progress with the de-listing SI.
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5. Listing species of special concern

Paper circulated (Cte Oct 23-05)

Olaf updated on progress with risk assessments and the collation of risk management information related to the species being considered for listing. Currently risk assessments have been signed off by the NNRAF for 10 of the 15

species. Olaf asked the Committee if it was happy to see and approve the risk assessments prior to him circulating the risk management fiches – so that the risk assessments could be made available to the public for comment. There was discussion on the need for approval but Finn confirmed that approval by the Committee is a necessary step. The Committee noted, with thanks, the progress made on the risk assessments and requested that the risk management information be circulated in batches, if possible, with similar species batched together.

ACTION 2: Olaf to send the completed risk assessments to the Committee by November 15.

ACTION 3: Olaf to circulate the species fiches, batched into similar species where possible as soon as they are completed.

6. Taxonomic issues

Paper circulated (Cte Oct 23-06)

Olaf introduced the paper – which suggested an approach for dealing with taxonomic issues that have arisen related to species of special concern. There followed considerable discussion on the best approach but, overall, the Committee agreed with the suggested steps in the paper on informing the committee, seeking scientific advice (from the NNRAF where appropriate, with support from additional experts), developing an agreed position and maintaining a record. The Committee thought there could be a step to seek legal advice, which would most likely be a role for Defra, Welsh Government or Scottish Government to provide as relevant. A flow diagram could be useful to help clarify the steps involved.

7. AOB

There were no AOBs.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be in April 2023 chaired by Defra.