

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS PATHOGENS: TERMS OF REFERENCE

In accordance with priorities determined by Health and Agriculture Ministers and the Health and Safety Commission:-

a. To advise the Health Ministers

- i. what work in connection with dangerous pathogens is necessary, for the furtherance of public health and what work should not be undertaken because it puts public health at risk;
- ii. on the scale of the facilities needed nationally to deal with necessary work of this character; and
- iii. on the appropriate conditions on which clearance should be given from the public health aspect (as distinct from the health and safety at work aspect) for the conduct of particular pieces of research or categories of diagnostic work with Category A pathogens.

b. To advise the Agriculture Ministers on the corresponding issues in respect of pathogens which are dangerous to animals as well as to humans.

c. To advise the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Executive on

- i. the general standards of safe working to be observed in work with dangerous pathogens in laboratories (but not advice on such standards in individual cases unless this is sought by the HSE);

- ii. necessary improvements in facilities and working methods in general;
- iii. new hazards from such pathogens; and
- iv. the terms of any controls to be applied generally to laboratories working with such pathogens - regulations, codes of practice and guidance.

d. To advise Health and Agriculture Ministers, the HSC and the HSE on

- i. the classification of pathogens according to the hazards they present;
- ii. the progress and significance of relevant medical and scientific research and developments, and
- iii. such other matters connected with work with dangerous pathogens as may be referred to the committee by the HSC, the HSE or Ministers.