

**British Ecological Society
Public and Policy Committee
Developing Position Statements**

Background

The BES will be asked and will want to express its position on different policy issues. If the BES has developed a position through responding to a parliamentary inquiry or a government consultation then the Policy Officer can use that as the BES's position on the subject. However, if the BES does not have a position on an issue, the Policy Officer, in liaison with the Chair of the Public and Policy Committee (PPC) and senior BES officers, can develop a BES position.

Identifying new position areas: The Policy Officer will identify policy areas where the BES should develop a position statement. The BES position might be in response to a piece of legislation or a Government policy development. The Policy Officer will consult with the Chair of the Public and Policy Committee to determine if the BES should produce a position statement.

Formulating a position statement:

1. The Policy Officer will:

- a) Place a call to members of the Society, asking them to register their interest;
- b) Interrogate the BES expertise database to make sure that key individuals have not been missed.

2. The Public and Policy Committee will then determine the membership of a **Working Group of experts** and will invite selected expert members of the Society to join a **Review Panel**.

3. The President and Vice-Presidents of the BES must always be invited to sit on the working group.

4. The statement will be prepared by the Policy Officer and the Working Group.

5. The statement will be sent to the Review Panel, and the Public and Policy Committee, for comment and approval, by a set deadline.

Signing-off a position statement: Following comments from the Review Panel and approval by the PPC, a BES position statement will need to be approved by BES Council, the President and the Vice Presidents:

1. The statement will be sent to the President and Vice-Presidents of the BES for comment and approval, by a set deadline.
2. The statement will be sent to BES Council for comment and approval, by a set deadline.
3. The statement will be sent to the President and Vice-Presidents for sign-off.

Reporting back to Council: finally, the BES position statement will be circulated back to Council and other relevant committees, as a courtesy.

Openness of BES positions: The Policy Officer will post a copy of the BES position on the public affairs section of the website and write a summary for the Bulletin, respecting any embargo due to work to promote the statement through the media.

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