

Brexit Policy Working Group: Terms of Reference

Action: to agree the Terms of Reference for the Group

The UK's decision to leave the European Union carries the possibility of the most substantial changes to our environmental policy framework for a generation, whilst also placing UK science in a state of uncertainty. There are major risks associated with this process, but also opportunities.

It is important that the BES engages proactively and positively with the Brexit¹ process to ensure that the voice of the ecological community is heard. The BES Policy Committee has decided to establish a Brexit Policy Working Group (BPWG) to provide additional focused guidance and support to the BES External Affairs Team during this extraordinary period.

Governance and Composition of the Brexit Policy Working Group

- The BPWG will report to BES Policy Committee.
- The BPWG will consist of a chair and three additional members appointed from the Policy Committee, the BES President, and four members appointed from the BES membership through an open, transparent and fair recruitment process, adhering to the BES's Equality and Diversity Guidelines. Members recruited through an open call will be selected according to the following criteria:
 - Knowledge of ecological issues impacted by the UK's decision to leave the EU
 - Experience of engagement with UK and/or European policymaking on relevant issues
 - Representation from across the UK
 - Representation of the diversity of the ecological community
- Secretariat support to the BPWG will be provided by the Policy Manager and Senior Policy Officer. Notes will be taken of Group meetings and circulated to Group members shortly after each meeting.
- The BPWG will initially operate from March 2017 until December 2018, at which point it will be subject to review by the BES Policy Committee.
- The BPWG will meet twice a year, with commitment to take part in additional teleconferences and regular email communication outside of meetings. Meeting travel and subsistence costs for Group members will be met by the BES.

Remit of the Group

- To provide advice and support to the External Affairs Team on engagement with Brexit, including parliamentary engagement through the RSB Parliamentary Steering Group.
- To identify specific priority issues for BES engagement with Brexit, including allowing sufficient reactive capacity.

¹ 'Brexit' is used as shorthand for the process of the UK leaving the European Union.

- To oversee the development of a series of position papers/policy briefs on relevant issues related to Brexit, including considerations of audience and dissemination
- To make recommendations on policy positions related to Brexit, for agreement by the BES Policy Committee.
- To contribute to, and advise on, consultation and inquiry responses on Brexit related issues.
- To identify and advise on additional Brexit-focused projects and events.
- To provide a focal point for engaging the wider BES membership with Brexit related policy issues, and advise on mechanisms to achieve this engagement.
- To provide guidance on engagement with partner organisations on Brexit related issues, for example the Campaign for Science and Engineering.
- Where appropriate, to act as spokespeople for the BES on Brexit issues, for example with policymakers or the media.