

**From:**  
**To:** [Environment and Public Affairs Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into compensation mechanisms for economic losses caused by GM crop contamination  
**Date:** Tuesday, 30 January 2018 8:45:00 PM

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For the attention of:  
Lauren Mesiti, Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs  
Legislative Council – Western Australia

Dear Lauren,

This email is a reply to the letter of 21 December last which the Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC sent to our Permanent Secretary, Clare Moriarty, inviting a submission to your inquiry. The letter was passed to me as the relevant policy adviser in Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) dealing with issues relating to GM crops.

Currently there are no plans for GM crops to be grown commercially in the UK, and we do not have any plans for compensation measures in respect of GM contamination. In 2006 Defra did publish proposals for managing the coexistence of GM and non-GM production (i.e. measures such as crop separation distances to minimise cross-contamination), and alongside that we did set out possible approaches for dealing with compensation for economic losses. The consultation paper issued at that time is available at this link - <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20080727103027/http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/crops/pdf/gmcoexist-condoc.pdf>. The section on compensation is at pages 45-54 (or paragraphs 136-171). I'm not sure how helpful the Committee would find this. It reflects the thinking of the then Government and therefore does not have any standing with the current administration. Moreover the ideas on coexistence and compensation were not developed any further in the absence of any concrete sign that GM cultivation was to become a practical reality here. For completeness, you may also want to see the summary of the responses to the 2006 consultation, available at this link - <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20080727103026/http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/gm/crops/pdf/gmcoexist-consultresponses-summary.pdf> (the compensation issue is covered at paragraphs 34-44).

If you would like clarification on any point please let me know, otherwise I would wish the Committee every success with its inquiry.

Regards,

Renaud

Renaud Wilson  
Genetic Resources and GM Team  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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