

## **IR539345 Annex**

### **SUMMARY OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DH) AND THE GOVERNMENT CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISER (GSA) RELATED TO THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT “ EVIDENCE CHECK 2: HOMEOPATHY” REFERRED TO IN PARA 9 OF THIS REPORT**

- The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee published their report on homeopathy on 22 February 2010
- Officials in the office of Sir John Beddington (the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor-GSA) requested a meeting with DH officials to discuss the government's response
- DH and GCSA officials subsequently corresponded about the government's response to those recommendations in the Committee's report (10,12 and 15) which made specific reference to the GSA
- They also corresponded about the process for clearing the response as a whole prior to publication and about the arrangements for the latter given the forthcoming General Election (the response, which would normally have been published within two months of the Committee's report, was delayed on account of the Election)
- After the Election, officials corresponded about a further meeting to discuss the timing and arrangements for publication and correspondence about this continued after the meeting
- Later, officials corresponded about small amendments to the response to some of the recommendations which mentioned the GSA
- GCSA officials also sought advice from DH officials prior to appearances by Sir John and BIS ministers before Lords and House of Commons Select Committees in July (these took place before the government's response was published)
- GCSA and DH officials also corresponded about some aspects of the government's response to other recommendations in the Committee report (such as recommendation 33) and about correspondence between BIS and DH ministers on this topic
- Sir John's office also sought clarification about certain points in the draft government response just prior to publication