

RESTRICTED

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Summary

- 1 This paper outlines proposals for the membership of the SAC.

Board Action

- 2 The Board is asked to
 1. agree to extend the membership of the Scientific Advisory Committee for Rupert Ormond and Mary Gibby, each for 3 years.

Preparation of the Paper

- 3 This paper was prepared by Janet Sprent, assisted by Colin Galbraith.

Background

- 4 The Board will recall that the review of the structure and *modus operandi* of the Scientific Advisory Committee was approved on 18 March 2003. The revised *modus operandi* was outlined in the paper (SNH/03/26).
- 5 Part of the review of the Scientific Advisory Committee agreed a structure which was to be one member acting as Chairman, three representatives drawn from Areas Boards (one each per Areas Board), and six non-assigned members making a total of ten. Historically, the SAC has had a larger membership; consequently the process of gradually reducing numbers whilst ensuring the subject balance on the Committee will continue until 2005. Accordingly, we have currently twelve members on the Committee, with the eventual aim of reaching ten by March 2005.
- 6 There are currently three "non-assigned" (ie not attached to any other Board in SNH), members whose term comes to an end at March 2004. There are currently a total of seven non-assigned members which is one more than the eventual required number. We therefore have the opportunity now to reduce the numbers to the level approved in the review by extending the term for 2 of the 3.
- 7 The members for consideration for renewal are Dr David Houston, Dr Rupert Ormond and Mary Gibby. Each of these members has brought a unique set of skills to the work of the Committee and have contributed well over the past three-year period.

- 8 David Houston has brought considerable skills in ornithology to the work of the Committee, while Rupert Ormond has provided input on marine issues and on management of projects specifically. Mary Gibby has been very active in helping with site protection issues, notably botanical matters and particular cases relating to the work of ACSSSI.
- 9 We propose to extend the membership for Rupert Ormond for three years, given his marine expertise and the fact that there is limited similar expertise on the Committee if he were not extended. We propose to extend the membership for Mary Gibby for three years given her important input on botanical matters. This therefore means that membership for David Houston would not be extended, which is regrettable, however ornithological work is still covered on the Committee through the membership of Nonie Coulthard and of Donald McLusky in particular. We do hope to keep David "on call" for particular ornithological matters should the need arise, hence continuing to utilise his experience overall.

Janet Sprent
Colin Galbraith