



## Office of Science and Technology

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*From the Chief Scientific Adviser to HM Government and Head of the Office of Science and Technology  
Professor Sir David King KB SCD FRS*

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Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP  
Secretary of State  
Dept for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

21 July 2003

Dear Margaret,

### **RE: GM SCIENCE REVIEW**

On behalf of the GM Science Review Panel, I am pleased to send you our report which is published today.

You asked me, as the Government's chief scientific adviser, together with Professor Howard Dalton, the chief scientific adviser to Defra, to assess the current state of knowledge on GM issues, focussing on public concern about the potential risks to human health or the environment from GM crops and food. The review has resulted in this report which I hope you will find helpful in your policy deliberation.

The review has been carried out by an independent scientific panel, covering a wide range of expertise and views on GM. Scientists at all levels were invited to make contributions to the review via our website and at open meetings across the country. These were taken into account. Issues of interest and concern to the public were identified primarily from the results of the initial foundation discussion workshops carried out by the GM public debate. The Food Standards Agency and its advisory committees contributed by commenting on a draft of the food related sections of the report. The panel itself held seven meetings, all open to the public, to discuss the structure and content of the report.

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Department of Trade and Industry



The Panel will reconvene in the autumn to consider comments on the first report, the results of the public debate – to see if there are further issues we should address, and any further developments in the science, including the results of the farm scale evaluations, if available.

I am copying this letter, together with the report, to the Prime Minister, to Allan Wilson, Scottish Executive, and to Carwyn Jones, National Assembly for Wales.

I am also copying the letter and report to Professor Malcolm Grant, chair of the GM debate steering board and the AEBC, and also to the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit (Ian Coates).

As ever

David

**Sir David King**