

Expression of Interest for the role of Bee Health Advisory Forum Science Advisor

Healthy honey bees are of great importance to many agricultural production and natural ecosystems. They also improve the wellbeing of thousands of people, through beekeeping and the pleasure of seeing bees in their gardens and the wider environment. There is an exciting opportunity for a motivated, talented scientist to join the Bee Health Advisory Forum (BHAF) as a Science Advisor to support the delivery of the joint England and Wales [Healthy Bees Plan 2030](#) (HBP 2030), which at its core sees beekeeping associations and government work together to safeguard this national resource.

HBP 2030 describes our priorities for protecting and improving honey bee health over the next 10 years. Our key aims are to maintain and enhance biosecurity, support beekeepers to be confident in managing their bees, use evidence from research, and exchange knowledge effectively to help honey bees and beekeeping to thrive. One of the key outcomes in HBP 2030 is 'Sound science and evidence underpinning the actions taken to support bee health'. An Implementation Plan has been produced this year outlining agreed actions designed to deliver the outcomes of HBP 2030 and will be refreshed approximately every three years. The Science Advisor will have the opportunity to share views on how these outcomes can be best achieved and help to shape the future of honey bee health in England and Wales.

The BHAF is the stakeholder group that provides input and advice on honey bee health policy development and engages in early discussion on emerging and developing honey bee health issues across England and Wales. The forum meets quarterly, with occasional extra meetings to focus on particular topics. This year, for example, a dedicated science meeting will be added, with the intention that this will take place annually. The BHAF helped develop HBP 2030 and is working together on its implementation. Following the publication of HBP 2030, work has also been ongoing to refresh the forum's Terms of Reference and review membership.

A number of stakeholder representatives on the BHAF have scientific backgrounds. Defra and the Welsh Government now wish to appoint an independent expert science advisor to join the forum in a voluntary capacity, for three years, until the next review period.

Please note that membership of the forum is an unpaid, voluntary role for which only travel expenses can be claimed when attending forum meetings in person.

Honey bee health is affected by a variety of factors and stressors, studied within a range of scientific disciplines. The science advisor role therefore has a broad remit and a range of scientific backgrounds could be relevant to the role.

Expectations of the Science Advisor include the following:

- I. Regular attendance at Bee Health Advisory Forum meetings (mostly virtual)
- II. Keep abreast of the latest scientific developments affecting honey bee health in the UK
- III. Encourage the sharing of research results with beekeepers, particularly results relevant to pro-active honey bee health management, husbandry and pest and disease control
- IV. Provide scientific challenge and input to the work of the Bee Health Advisory Forum
- V. Support science actions within the Healthy Bees Plan 2030 Implementation Plan
- VI. Contribute to an annual science meeting of the forum
- VII. Develop your own honey bee health science-themed communications and support other stakeholder communications on World Bee Day annually

Information required as part of your expression of interest:

1. Name
2. Email address
3. Qualifications
4. Name and address of your organisation.
5. Confirm you can normally attend five forum meetings per year – one per quarter (typically March, June, September and December), plus a science-themed meeting early in the year. Convenient times are agreed 3 months in advance of meetings.
6. Briefly outline in approx. 300 words what experience and skills you would bring to this role.

Please send applications via email to Rebekah.Clarkson@apha.gov.uk. Closing Date: Friday 17th December 2021 at 17:00