

Government seeks views on reducing livestock methane production

The UK Government has today launched a [UK-wide call for evidence](#) asking agricultural industry, scientists and the wider public for information on the use of new types of animal feed products that can reduce methane emissions from livestock.

Ruminant livestock – cows and sheep – are the leading cause of farm greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. However, feed products with methane inhibiting properties have shown potential in reducing reduce GHG emissions, especially from housed cattle. These products may include ingredients like methane production inhibitors, seaweeds, essential oils, organic acids, probiotics, and antimicrobials.

The consultation has been launched in agreement with the Devolved Administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The governments are seeking to find out how farmers and agri-businesses can increase adoption of this technology to support more sustainable protein production. It will consider the current role of feed additives within our farming systems, and the potential barriers that could prevent the introduction of methane suppressing feed products in both the near and long-term future.

In 2019, agriculture accounted for 10% of total UK greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with methane accounting for approximately 54% of agricultural emissions. The UK Government has set an ambitious target to achieve net-zero GHG emissions across the whole UK economy by 2050. To meet this target all sectors must reduce their GHG emissions.

Agricultural greenhouse gas emissions have reduced by 16% since 1990 (as of 2020) thanks to innovation and advances in technology, with many farms using more efficient agricultural practices. Government emissions and production statistics suggest that since 1990 we are producing a litre of milk with 21% less GHG emissions. Efficiency gains in dairy farming mean that we are now producing 11% more milk than we were in 2000 with 24% fewer cows.

Farming Minister, Victoria Prentis said:

“We’ve set out ambitious targets to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and it’s right to consider how we can help farmers produce food sustainably and reduce emissions from agriculture further.

“Well managed livestock can provide various environmental benefits and meat and dairy can both be an important part of a balanced diet. Through this call for evidence we’ll better understand the promising role emerging feed additive technologies for cattle could play and how government can help drive its development.”

Minister for Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths said:

“We need to develop a resilient and prosperous agriculture sector which reduces its carbon emissions and greenhouse gases through a range of approaches including the possibility of adoption of important technologies. We want to work with our farmers and industry to achieve this and I encourage everyone involved in the industry in Wales to respond to the call for evidence.”

Scotland’s Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands, Mairi Gougeon, said:

“The Scottish Government has ambitious climate change targets and, to meet them, agriculture in Scotland needs to reduce its emissions by 31% from 2019 levels by 2032. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and therefore methane reducing feed additives have the potential to be a crucial part of the solutions that the agriculture sector needs to deploy towards achieving our climate ambitions.

“That is why I welcome this four nations effort to improve our understanding of the use of this innovative new technology in the sector, which will inform each government’s approach to future policy-making in this area. I would encourage the Scottish farming community to respond to the call for evidence and make their views known.”

Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Minister Edwin Poots MLA said:

“Following my consultation on future agricultural policy for Northern Ireland earlier this year, I announced that the use of feed additives to reduce enteric methane emissions, nitrogen and phosphorus outputs would be progressed by collaborative industry research. This UK wide call for evidence will provide further guidance to guide us along the path to reduced methane emissions from our livestock industry.”

While food choices can have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions, well managed livestock also provide environmental benefits such as supporting biodiversity, protecting the character of the countryside and generating important income for rural communities.

A robust approval process is adopted for these products and takes into consideration the health and welfare of the animals, food safety and implications for human health and the wider environmental impact of these products.

On 27 June 2019, the UK became the first major economy in the world to set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the whole UK economy by 2050. The UK was also amongst the first signatories of the Global Methane Pledge launched at COP26, aiming to reduce global methane emissions by at least 30% by 2030, against 2020 levels.

As part of the effort to achieve our net zero ambitions, the UK Government

and the Devolved Governments are considering a wide range of measures to reduce emissions from our agricultural sectors. The use of feed additives and other animal feed with methane suppressing properties have been shown to potentially reduce methane emissions, especially from dairy and beef cattle, and is one such measure being explored.

[One week left to update post-16 Child Benefit claims](#)

While young people are considering their future beyond their GCSE or Scottish National Certificate results, HMRC is asking parents and carers to make sure they update their Child Benefit records by 31 August, or risk seeing their payments end.

HMRC has written to 1.3 million parents and carers of children, who are in the last year of school or education, to remind them to update their Child Benefit records. More than 600,000 families have already notified HMRC, but many have yet to do so.

Parents and carers can [update their Child Benefit records](#) using their [Personal Tax Account on GOV.UK](#), by returning a completed copy of the form they were sent earlier in the year, or by telephone.

Angela MacDonald, HMRC's Deputy Chief Executive and Second Permanent Secretary, said:

Child Benefit provides vital financial support for families and we want to make sure no-one misses out because they haven't updated their details on time.

The quickest way to notify HMRC is [via your Personal Tax Account online](#), or search 'child benefit when your child turns 16' on GOV.UK for more information or further options for contacting us.

Child Benefit is paid to eligible parents or carers who are responsible for a child under 16, or under 20 if they are in full-time non-advanced education or approved training. This includes A-levels/ Scottish Highers, NVQs up to Level 3, or certain traineeships – check GOV.UK for a [list of approved courses](#) and training schemes.

Visit GOV.UK to find out more about [Child Benefit for 16 to 19-year olds](#)

A list of full-time non-advanced education and approved training can be found

on [GOV.UK](#). It does not include university degrees, or equivalent, as these are considered “advanced” education.

If parents or carers have an income over £50,000 (or their partner does) and receive Child Benefit, they may have to pay the [High Income Child Benefit Charge](#) via an annual Self Assessment tax return. More information on this can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

Child Benefit is worth £21.80 per week for a first child and £14.45 for each additional child. There’s no limit to the number of children you can claim for. Making a Child Benefit claim also ensures you qualify for National Insurance credits, which contribute towards your State Pension and can, in some circumstances, be [transferred to a grandparent](#) or other family member who helps with childcare – known as [Specified Adult Childcare Credits](#) (SACC).

The government is offering [help for households](#) – check online to find out what cost of living support you could be eligible for.

[Companies House will soon be introducing a new WebFiling account](#)

News story

The new WebFiling account will have more functionality with improved security features, and is the first step in creating a single sign-in across all Companies House services.



Your new WebFiling account will have improved security features and will give you more freedom to self-manage your account.

New benefits include:

- multi-factor authentication
- the ability to link your company to your WebFiling account to give you

more control over your filings

- the ability to digitally authorise people to file on your behalf on WebFiling, and to remove authorisation
- easily seeing who's digitally authorised to file for your company
- an option to sign up to emails to help you with the running of your company

Once you've linked your company to your account, you will not need to enter your authentication code every time you file online.

If you own or file on behalf of more than one company, you'll be able to manage all your companies from one account.

Once the new account is introduced, you'll also be able to digitally authorise yourself and other directors to file for your new company as part of the online incorporation process.

This is the first step in creating a single sign-in across all Companies House services, and it's an important milestone in our [2020 to 2025 strategy](#).

When you log in to WebFiling after the new account has been introduced, you'll need to give us some additional details to enable multi-factor authentication on your existing account. You will not need to sign up for a new account, and you'll be able to use your existing email address and password.

Once you've done this, you'll be able to access all the benefits of your WebFiling account.

If you do not have a WebFiling account, you do not need to do anything at this time. If you sign up for a WebFiling account in the future, you'll have access to these benefits.

If you have a [Find and update company information service](#) account, this account will not be affected by these changes at this time.

[Changes to your WebFiling account](#)

Published 23 August 2022

[Rogue director banned for thousands of nuisance sales calls](#)

Tomus Patrick Arif, from Orpington, Southeast London, was the director of two connected companies, Cover Utility Team Limited and Digital Team UK Limited. The companies sold insurance for home appliances.

Cover Utility Team entered into creditors voluntary liquidation in March 2021 and the company's insolvency triggered an investigation by the Insolvency Service into Tomus Arif's conduct.

Investigators uncovered that Cover Utility Team had previously been investigated and fined £160,000 by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) after complaints were received that the two companies connected to Tomus Arif had targeted elderly and vulnerable people.

In 6 months, Tomus Arif caused the company to make just under 77,000 unsolicited calls to people who had registered with the Telephone Preference Service to avoid nuisance calls.

This was a breach of the of [Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations](#), and Tomus Arif also failed to pay a fee and register with the ICO as a data controller of personal information in a breach of [data protection regulations](#).

Investigators also uncovered customers were often mistreated, complaining they did not take out various home appliance policies but were charged, while some customers did not own the appliance which had allegedly been insured.

On 25 July 2022, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted a 7-year disqualification undertaking from Tomus Arif after he did not dispute that he allowed Cover Utility Team to breach privacy and electronic communications regulations, as well as data protection regulations.

Effective from 17 August 2022, Tomus Arif is banned from directly, or indirectly, becoming involved in the promotion, formation or management of a company, without the permission of the court.

Elizabeth Pigney, Chief Investigator for the Insolvency Service, said:

Tomus Arif's conduct fell well below what is expected of a director. Not only did he ignore regulations put in place to guard against unsolicited calls but he ruthlessly targeted elderly and vulnerable people to purchase insurance often which they didn't need.

Thanks to joint working with the ICO we have removed Tomus Arif from the corporate arena for a substantial amount of time. His 7-year ban should serve as a harsh warning to other rogue directors that we will use the full extent of our powers to curb reckless and harmful behaviour.

An ICO spokesperson said:

Unwanted calls are at best a nuisance and in the worst cases can cause real distress. Complaints regarding the mis-selling of white

goods insurance are among some of the highest we receive, and we'd encourage people to tell us when they get one.

The information people provide helps us track down offenders and take action to stop them making further calls, as well as deterring others from doing the same. We also jointly work with other regulators, including The Insolvency Service, to take the appropriate regulatory action against the companies and individuals behind these scams.

This case was brought as a result of an operation set up to look specifically at White Goods Insurance and companies targeting vulnerable individuals. His companies were found to have made 77,000 predatory marketing calls in breach of the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations.

Tomus Patrick Arif is from Orpington, southeast London, and his date of birth is May 1999.

Cover utility Team Limited (Company number 12133070)

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a [range of other restrictions](#)

[Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is available.](#)

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

Government to take no further action under National Security and Investment Act on BT share acquisition

News story

The government has decided to take no further action on the acquisition of 5.9% shares by Altice in BT.



The acquisition by Altice of 5.9% shares in BT was called in for a full national security assessment by Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng on Thursday 26 May.

The government has powers under the National Security and Investment Act 2021 to scrutinise and, if necessary, intervene in qualifying acquisitions on national security grounds.

Following careful consideration, the government will take no further action on the acquisition of 5.9% shares by Altice in BT and the Final Notification has been issued to parties.

The government will always act to protect the UK's critical national telecoms infrastructure if we judge action is necessary. Under the National Security and Investment Act, acquisitions are assessed on a case by case basis, so any future transaction could be subject to a separate assessment under the Act.

Published 23 August 2022