



23 July 2013

Dear Professor Wingham

We thank you for inviting a response to your exciting new strategy document and applaud the sentiments expressed therein. Our comments are:

Question 1:

BHS finds it curious that the 'aims' expressed in the Strategy stress 'UK' business when NERC is a Natural Environment RC, not a National RC. Since much of NERC's field research is global and the importance of international partnerships is stressed, this seems a little unbalanced.

Questions 2 and 3:

NERC support for post-graduate training is applauded but, whilst we appreciate the financial limitations on all government-funded organisations, we strongly suggest that the recent withdrawal of funds for taught-MSc course is regrettable, especially for subjects where no specialised first degree is available in the UK, such as hydrology. From our dialogues and current links with hydrological consultants and agencies we suggest that such funding would provide a welcome co-operative link with many SMEs and agencies with international reputations in water resources.

Question 4:

We will welcome any opportunity for joint initiatives with the Council for assistance in using environmental science in the widest possible context.

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