

# The Institution of Environmental Sciences

The professional body for environmental scientists  
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## **The Environment Agency's Objectives and Contribution To Sustainable Development: Statutory Guidance**

### **A Response by the Institution of Environmental Sciences**

The Institution welcomes the opportunity to present its views and comments on this matter.

#### **Prioritisation and Accountability (2.1 – 2.3)**

We are generally in agreement with the priorities set out in 2.1 as the Agency should, of necessity give precedence to performing its statutory duties. These are, however, extensive and diverse and there is a danger that over concentration of resources in some key areas (e.g. flood defence or pollution control) may weaken the ability to perform well in others.

#### **Statutory Objectives (3.1 and 3.2)**

The Environment Agency has a unique position, in parallel with the new Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, as a countrywide environmental organisation with extensive contacts and significant resources. As such it is ideally placed to initiate and co-ordinate major environmental action in an informed manner.

This central role is of particular importance in the objectives set out in 3.1(h) – external partnerships and 3.1(j) – research and should have high priority.

#### **Sustainable Development (5.1 – 5.11)**

We would agree that the roles identified for the Agency in 5.2 are reasonable. Their role as an independent advisor and a source of influence to others is very important (5.5). This is worthy of reinforcement as stated in 5.7 and particularly in the areas of education and training. Activities in partnership with external institutions, the professions and higher education should be encouraged and supported with adequate resources.

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