



The Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) [2010]

The relationship between SACs and Government



1. RSB advice to Government (extract):

“Government should publicly explain the rationale behind their decision making if they choose not to take the advice of a SAC and/or reflect scientific evidence.”

“SACs should have access to training and media advice from independent science press officers outside of Government in order to communicate their position effectively.”

2. Government’s decision:

“The Government observes that this [link between SAC advice and departmental policy decision making] will, rightly, remain an issue that requires continuous management through good working relationships and clear, open, formal processes.”

“The Government agrees that engagement is an important aspect of the work of SACs and that good media skills are necessary for effective presentation and transparent operation of SAC activity and advice. The Code will continue to reflect this important issue.”

Read the Government’s [code of practice for SACs](#), published in 2011

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