
Committee Stage: Thursday 7 July 2022

Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill (Amendment Paper)

This document lists all amendments tabled to the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill. Any withdrawn amendments are listed at the end of the document. The amendments are arranged in the order in which it is expected they will be decided.

This document should be read alongside the Chair's provisional Selection and Grouping, which sets out the order in which the amendments will be debated.

Daniel Zeichner

21

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

Clause 26, page 16, line 29, leave out "may" and insert "must"

Daniel Zeichner

22

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

Clause 26, page 16, line 31, leave out "may" and insert "must"

Daniel Zeichner

23

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

Clause 27, page 18, line 16, leave out “may” and insert “must”

Daniel Zeichner 24
 Jim McMahon
 Ruth Jones
 Alex Sobel
 Mary Glendon
 Kerry McCarthy

Clause 27, page 18, line 20, leave out “may” and insert “must”

Daniel Zeichner 25
 Jim McMahon
 Ruth Jones
 Alex Sobel
 Mary Glendon
 Kerry McCarthy

Clause 27, page 18, line 26, leave out “may” and insert “must”

Daniel Zeichner 26
 Jim McMahon
 Ruth Jones
 Alex Sobel
 Mary Glendon
 Kerry McCarthy

Clause 43, page 28, line 6, at end insert—

- “(7) Regulations under this Act must be made in accordance with—
- (a) the environmental principles set out in section 17(5) of the Environment Act 2021, and
 - (b) Article 391 (Non-regression from levels of protection) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the one part, and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the other part, done at Brussels and London on 30 December 2020.”

Daniel Zeichner 27
 Jim McMahon
 Ruth Jones
 Alex Sobel
 Mary Glendon
 Kerry McCarthy

Clause 43, page 28, line 6, at end insert—

- “(7) No regulations may be made under this Act unless—
- (a) a policy statement on environmental principles has been laid before Parliament under section 18(6) of the Environment Act 2021, and
 - (b) section 19 of the Environment Act 2021 is in force.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would prevent the exercise of any powers granted by the Bill until the Government's policy statement on environmental principles has been finalised and Ministers are under a statutory duty to have due regard to it.

Daniel Zeichner

3

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

Clause 48, page 30, line 18, at end insert—

- “(3A) Regulations under subsection (3)(b) may not appoint a day on which any of sections 11 to 15 is to come into force unless the welfare advisory body has advised the Secretary of State that it is satisfied that regulations made under Part 2 establish a proper process to ensure that the health and welfare of animals, and their qualifying progeny, in respect of which a precision bred animal marketing authorisation is made will not be adversely affected by any precision bred trait.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would prevent regulations being made on precision bred animals until the welfare advisory body is satisfied that animal health and welfare will be ensured.

Deidre Brock

37

Clause 48, page 30, line 20, at end insert—

- “(5A) Regulations may not be made under or by virtue of this section unless a common framework agreement relating to the release and marketing of, and risk assessments relating to, precision bred plants and animals, and the marketing of food and feed produced from such plants and animals, has been agreed between a Minister of the Crown, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.
- (5B) “Common framework agreement” has the meaning given by section 10(4) of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would prevent the operative parts of this Bill coming into force until a common framework agreement on the regulation of precision breeding had been agreed between the UK Government and the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

Daniel Zeichner

NC1

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glindon
Kerry McCarthy

To move the following Clause—

“Labelling

- (1) A person must not—
 - (a) market a precision bred organism, or
 - (b) place food and feed produced from precision bred organisms on the market unless labelled in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State under this section.
- (2) Regulations under this section must ensure that the labelling referred to in subsection (1) provides sufficient information to support informed consumer choice, having regard in particular to—
 - (a) nutritional content,
 - (b) the potential presence of allergens or other substances which may cause adverse human health impacts, and
 - (c) the environmental impact of the product.
- (3) Before making regulations under this section, the Secretary of State must—
 - (a) consult representatives of—
 - (i) consumers,
 - (ii) food producers,
 - (iii) suppliers,
 - (iv) retailers,
 - (v) growers and farmers,
 - (vi) the organic sector,
 - (vii) other persons likely to be affected by the regulations, and
 - (viii) any other persons the Secretary of State considers appropriate; and
 - (b) seek the advice of the Food Standards Agency on the information to be required to be provided on labelling.
- (4) Section 30 (Interpretation of Part 3) has effect for the purposes of this section as it has effect for the purposes of Part 3.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would require the Secretary of State to make regulations about the labelling of precision bred organisms and food and feed products made from them.

Daniel Zeichner

NC2

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

To move the following Clause—

“Release and marketing of precision bred animals

A person may not give a release notice to the Secretary of State in relation to the release of a precision bred animal (see section 4(1)(a)), and no precision bred animal marketing authorisation may be issued (see section 13(1)), until—

- (a) at least 12 months has passed since the date of the establishment of the Animal Sentience Committee under section 1 of the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022, and
- (b) at least 6 months has passed since the date on which the Animal Sentience Committee has made to the Secretary of State a report on the provisions of this Act.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would delay the release of precision bred animals for at least 12 months after the Animal Sentience Committee established under the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022 has been established and at least 6 months after the Committee has reported on the impact of the Act on animal welfare.

Daniel Zeichner

NC3

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

To move the following Clause—

“Genetic Technology Authority

- (1) There is to be a body corporate called the Genetic Technology Authority.
- (2) The Authority is to consist of—
 - (a) a chairman and deputy chairman, and
 - (b) such number of other members as the Secretary of State appoints.
- (3) Schedule [Genetic Technology Authority: supplementary provisions] (which deals with the membership of the Authority, etc.) has effect.”

Daniel Zeichner

NC4

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glindon
Kerry McCarthy

To move the following Clause—

“Accounts and audit

- (1) The Authority must keep proper accounts and proper records in relation to the accounts and must prepare for each accounting year a statement of accounts.
- (2) The annual statement of accounts must comply with any direction given by the Secretary of State, with the approval of the Treasury, as to the information to be contained in the statement, the way in which the information is to be presented or the methods and principles according to which the statement is to be prepared.
- (3) Not later than five months after the end of an accounting year, the Authority must send a copy of the statement of accounts for that year to the Secretary of State and to the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- (4) The Comptroller and Auditor General must examine, certify and report on every statement of accounts received under subsection (3) above and must lay a copy of the statement and of the report before each House of Parliament.
- (5) The Secretary of State and the Comptroller and Auditor General may inspect any records relating to the accounts.
- (6) In this section “accounting year” means the period beginning with the day when the Authority is established and ending with the following 31st March, or any later period of twelve months ending with the 31st March.”

Daniel Zeichner

NC5

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glindon
Kerry McCarthy

To move the following Clause—

“Reports to Secretary of State

- (1) The Authority must prepare and send to the Secretary of State an annual report as soon as practicable after the end of the period of twelve months for which it is prepared.
- (2) A report prepared under this section for any period must deal with the activities of the Authority in the period and the activities the Authority proposes to undertake in the succeeding period of twelve months.

- (3) The Secretary of State must lay before each House of Parliament a copy of every report received under this section.”

Daniel Zeichner

NC6

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

To move the following Clause—

“General functions of the Authority

- (1) The Authority must—
- (a) keep under review information about the use of genetic technology in plants and animals and any subsequent development of genetic technology and advise the Secretary of State about those matters,
 - (b) publicise the services provided to the public by the Authority or provided in pursuance of release notification requirements or marketing authorisations under this Act,
 - (c) provide, to such extent as it considers appropriate, a code of practice, advice and information for persons to whom release notification requirements or marketing authorisations under this Act apply
 - (d) maintain a statement of the general principles which it considers should be followed—
 - (i) in the carrying-on of activities governed by this Act, and
 - (ii) in the carrying-out of its functions in relation to such activities,
 - (e) promote, in relation to activities governed by this Act, compliance with—
 - (i) requirements imposed by or under this Act, and
 - (ii) the Authority’s code of practice
 - (f) perform such other functions as may be specified in regulations.
- (2) The Authority may, if it thinks fit, charge a fee for any advice provided under subsection (1)(c).”

Daniel Zeichner

NC7

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

To move the following Clause—

“Duties in relation to carrying out its functions

- (1) The Authority must carry out its functions effectively, efficiently and economically.

- (2) In carrying out its functions, the Authority must, so far as relevant, have regard to the principles of best regulatory practice (including the principles under which regulatory activities should be transparent, accountable, proportionate, consistent and targeted only at cases in which action is needed)."

Daniel Zeichner

NC8

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glindon
Kerry McCarthy

To move the following Clause—

"Power to delegate and establish committees

- (1) The Authority may delegate a function to a committee, to a member or to staff.
- (2) The Authority may establish such committees or sub-committees as it thinks fit (whether to advise the Authority or to exercise a function delegated to it by the Authority).
- (3) The members of the committees or sub-committees may include persons who are not members of the Authority.
- (4) Subsection (1) has effect subject to any enactment requiring a decision to be taken by members of the Authority or by a committee consisting of members of the Authority."

Deidre Brock

NC9

To move the following Clause—

"Power of the Scottish Parliament to legislate on the marketing of precision bred organisms

- (1) Schedule 1 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 is amended as follows.
- (2) After paragraph 11 insert—

"Marketing of precision bred organisms

- 11A The United Kingdom market access principles do not apply to (and sections 2(3) and 5(3) do not affect the operation of) any Act of the Scottish Parliament, or any subordinate legislation made under or by virtue of such an Act, relating to the marketing of—
- (a) precision bred organisms, or
- (b) food or feed produced from precision bred organisms."

Deidre Brock

NC10

To move the following Clause—

“Labelling of food or feed produced by precision bred animals

- (1) Food or feed produced from a precision bred animal or its progeny that is placed on the market must be labelled to inform prospective purchasers that it has been produced from a precision bred animal or its progeny.
- (2) The labelling required under subsection (1) must be in easily visible and clearly legible type and, where packaging is used, it must be placed on the front outer surface of the packaging.
- (3) Regulations must lay down the labelling terms to be used to meet the requirements of subsection (1).
- (4) Regulations under this section are subject to the affirmative procedure.”

Daniel Zeichner

NC11

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon

To move the following Clause—

“Intellectual property

Not later than three months after the passage of this Act, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament an assessment of the options for the regulation of intellectual property relating to precision bred organisms arising from this Act.”

Daniel Zeichner

NS1

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

To move the following Schedule—

“SCHEDULE

GENETIC TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY: SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

Status and capacity

- 1 The Authority is not to be regarded as the servant or agent of the Crown, or as enjoying any status, privilege or immunity of the Crown; and its property is not to be regarded as property of, or property held on behalf of, the Crown.

- 2 The Authority has power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate the discharge of its functions, or is incidental or conducive to their discharge, except the power to borrow money.

Expenses

- 3 The Secretary of State may, with the consent of the Treasury, pay the Authority out of money provided by Parliament such sums as he thinks fit towards its expenses.

Appointment of members

- 4 (1) All the members of the Authority (including the chairman and deputy chairman who must be appointed as such) must be appointed by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The following persons are disqualified for being appointed as chairman or deputy chairman of the Authority—
- (a) any person who is, or has been, concerned with the creation, release or marketing of plant or animal organisms, gametes or embryos created using genetic technology, and
 - (b) any person who is, or has been, directly concerned with commissioning or funding any research involving such creation, release or marketing, or who has actively participated in any decision to do so.
- (3) The Secretary of State must secure that at least one-third but fewer than half of the other members of the Authority fall within sub-paragraph (2)(a) or (b), and that at least one member falls within each of paragraphs (a) and (b).
- 5 (1) A person (“P”) is disqualified for being appointed as chairman, deputy chairman, or as any other member of the Authority if—
- (a) P is the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order,
 - (b) in the last five years P has been convicted in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man of an offence and has had a qualifying sentence passed on P.
- (2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1)(b), the date of conviction is to be taken to be the ordinary date on which the period allowed for making an appeal or application expires or, if an appeal or application is made, the date on which the appeal or application is finally disposed of or abandoned or fails by reason of its non-prosecution.
- (3) In sub-paragraph (1)(b), the reference to a qualifying sentence is to a sentence of imprisonment for a period of not less than three months (whether suspended or not) without the option of a fine.

Tenure of office

- 6 (1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph and paragraph 7, a person holds and vacates office as a member of the Authority in accordance with the terms of the person’s appointment.
- (2) A person may not be appointed as a member of the Authority for more than three years at a time.

- (3) A member may at any time resign their office by giving notice to the Secretary of State.
 - (4) A person who ceases to be a member of the Authority is eligible for re-appointment (whether or not in the same capacity).
 - (5) A person holding office as chairman, deputy chairman or other member of the Authority is to cease to hold that office if the person becomes disqualified for appointment to it.
 - (6) If the Secretary of State is satisfied that a member of the Authority—
 - (a) has been absent from meetings of the Authority for six consecutive months or longer without the permission of the Authority, or
 - (b) is unable or unfit to discharge the person's functions as chairman, deputy chairman or other member,the Secretary of State may remove the member from office as chairman, deputy chairman or other member.
 - (7) The Secretary of State may suspend a member from office as chairman, deputy chairman or other member of the Authority if it appears to him that one of the conditions in paragraph (6) is or may be satisfied in relation to the member.
- 7
- (1) This paragraph applies where the Secretary of State decides to suspend a member under paragraph 6(7).
 - (2) The Secretary of State must give notice to the member of the decision and the suspension takes effect on receipt by the member of the notice.
 - (3) A notice under subsection (2) is treated as being received by the member—
 - (a) in a case where it is delivered in person or left at the member's proper address, at the time at which it is delivered or left;
 - (b) in a case where it is sent by post to the member at that address, on the third day after the day on which it was posted.
 - (4) The initial period of suspension must not exceed 6 months.
 - (5) The Secretary of State may review the member's suspension at any time.
 - (6) The Secretary of State must review the member's suspension if requested in writing by the member to do so, but need not carry out a review less than 3 months after the beginning of the initial period of suspension.
 - (7) Following a review the Secretary of State may—
 - (a) revoke the suspension, or
 - (b) suspend the member for another period of not more than 6 months from the expiry of the current period.
 - (8) The Secretary of State must revoke the suspension if at any time—
 - (a) the Secretary of State decides that neither of the conditions mentioned in paragraph 5(5) is satisfied, or
 - (b) the Secretary of State decides that either of those conditions is satisfied but does not remove the member from office as chairman, deputy chairman or other member of the Authority.

Disqualification of members of Authority for House of Commons and Northern Ireland Assembly

- 8 In Part II of Schedule 1 to the House of Commons Disqualification Act 1975 and in Part II of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Assembly Disqualification Act 1975 (bodies of which all members are disqualified) the following entry is inserted at the appropriate place in alphabetical order—

“The Genetic Technology Authority”.

Remuneration and pensions of members

- 9 (1) The Authority may—
- (a) pay to the chairman such remuneration, and
 - (b) pay or make provision for paying to or in respect of the chairman or any other member such pensions, allowances, fees, expenses or gratuities, as the Secretary of State may, with the approval of the Treasury, determine.
- (2) Where a person ceases to be a member of the Authority otherwise than on the expiry of their term of office and it appears to the Secretary of State that there are special circumstances which make it right for that person to receive compensation, the Authority may make to that person a payment of such amount as the Secretary of State may, with the consent of the Treasury, determine.

Staff

- 10 (1) The Authority may appoint such employees as it thinks fit, upon such terms and conditions as the Authority, with the approval of the Secretary of State and the consent of the Treasury, may determine.
- (2) The Authority must secure that any employee whose function is, or whose functions include, the inspection of premises is of such character, and is so qualified by training and experience, as to be a suitable person to perform that function.
- (3) The Authority must, as regards such of its employees as with the approval of the Secretary of State it may determine, pay to or in respect of them such pensions, allowances or gratuities (including pensions, allowances or gratuities by way of compensation for loss of employment), or provide and maintain for them such pension schemes (whether contributory or not), as may be so determined.
- (4) If an employee of the Authority—
- (a) is a participant in any pension scheme applicable to that employment, and
 - (b) becomes a member of the Authority,
- that employee may, if the Secretary of State so determines, be treated for the purposes of the pension scheme as if the employee’s service as a member of the Authority were service as employee of the Authority, whether or not any benefits are to be payable to or in respect of the employee by virtue of paragraph 7 above.

Proceedings

- 11 (1) Subject to any provision of this Act, the Authority may regulate its own proceedings, and make such arrangements as it thinks appropriate for the discharge of its functions.
- (2) The Authority may pay to the members of any committee or sub-committee such fees and allowances as the Secretary of State may, with the consent of the Treasury, determine.
- 12 (1) A member of the Authority who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a release notification or marketing authorisation under this Act shall, as soon as possible after the relevant circumstances have come to the member's knowledge, disclose the nature of that interest to the Authority.
- (2) Any disclosure under sub-paragraph (1) above must be recorded by the Authority.
- (3) Except in such circumstances (if any) as may be determined by the Authority under paragraph 9(1) above, the member must not participate after the disclosure in any deliberation or decision of the Authority with respect to the release notification or marketing authorisation, and if the member does so the deliberation or decision is of no effect.
- 13 The validity of any proceedings of the Authority, or of any committee or sub-committee, is not affected by any vacancy among the members or by any defect in the appointment of a member.

Instruments

- 14 The fixing of the seal of the Authority must be authenticated by the signature of the chairman or deputy chairman of the Authority or some other member of the Authority authorised by the Authority to act for that purpose.
- 15 A document purporting to be duly executed under the seal of the Authority, or to be signed on the Authority's behalf, may be received in evidence and is deemed to be so executed or signed unless the contrary is proved.

Investigation by Parliamentary Commissioner

- 16 The Authority is subject to investigation by the Parliamentary Commissioner and accordingly, in Schedule 2 to the Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1967 (which lists the authorities subject to investigation under that Act), the following entry is inserted at the appropriate place in alphabetical order—

"Genetic Technology Authority".

Daniel Zeichner

Jim McMahon
Ruth Jones
Alex Sobel
Mary Glendon
Kerry McCarthy

28

Title, line 2, leave out from “plants” to “animals” in line 3 and insert “, and the marketing of food and feed produced from such plants”

Member's explanatory statement

This amends the long title to remove animals from the scope of the Bill.

Order of the House

[15 June 2022]

That the following provisions shall apply to the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Bill:

Committal

1. The Bill shall be committed to a Public Bill Committee.

Proceedings in Public Bill Committee

2. Proceedings in the Public Bill Committee shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion on Tuesday 12 July 2022.
3. The Public Bill Committee shall have leave to sit twice on the first day on which it meets.

Consideration and Third Reading

4. Proceedings on Consideration shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion one hour before the moment of interruption on the day on which those proceedings are commenced.
5. Proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at the moment of interruption on that day.
6. Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings on Consideration and Third Reading.

Other proceedings

7. Any other proceedings on the Bill may be programmed.
-

Order of the Committee

[28 June 2022, as amended on 30 June 2022]

That—

- (1) the Committee shall (in addition to its first meeting at 9.25 am on Tuesday 28 June) meet—
- (a) at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 28 June;
 - (b) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 30 June;
 - (c) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 5 July;
 - (d) at 11.30 am and 2.00 pm on Thursday 7 July;
 - (e) at 9.25 am and 2.00 pm on Tuesday 12 July;
- (2) the Committee shall hear oral evidence in accordance with the following Table:

Date	Time	Witness
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 10.10 am	NFU
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 10.35 am	Professor Gideon Henderson, Chief Scientific Advisor, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 11.00 am	Food Standards Agency
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 11.25 am	Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 2.35 pm	The Royal Society; The Royal Society of Biology
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 3.15 pm	Angus Wheat Consultants Ltd; Rothamsted Research
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 3.50 pm	Organic Farmers & Growers; Soil Association
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 4.30 pm	NIAB; Crop Science Centre
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 4.50 pm	British Society of Plant Breeders
Tuesday 28 June	Until no later than 5.10 pm	The Center for Aquaculture Technologies
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 11.45am	Professor Gideon Henderson, Chief Scientific Advisor, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 12.25 pm	The Roslin Institute; Genus; The Pirbright Institute

Date	Time	Witness
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 1.05 pm	Nuffield Council on Bioethics; Dr Madeline Campbell, Senior Lecturer in Human-Animal Interactions and Ethics, Royal Veterinary College; Compassion in World Farming
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 2.20 pm	RSPCA
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 2.50 pm	Beyond GM/A Bigger Conversation
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 3.30 pm	Professor David Rose, Professor of Sustainable Agricultural Systems, Cranfield University; Michael Edenborough QC, Serle Court Chambers; Professor Sarah Hartley, Associate Professor, University of Exeter
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 3.50 pm	Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 4.10 pm	Paul Temple, Farmer, Member of the Science for Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Group
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 4.30 pm	Benchmark Genetics
Thursday 30 June	Until no later than 5.10 pm	NIAB; John Innes Centre; KWS

- (3) the proceedings shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion at 5.00 pm on Tuesday 12 July.