

Solving the challenges of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

Science-policy workshop

Tuesday 30 March 2021

Aims & Objectives

- To hold an introductory 'kick-off' session to better understand the issues relating to the adverse outcomes of PFAS as an environmental contaminant and as present in consumer products
- To bring scientists and policymakers together to form new networks and contacts in this area
- To consider where the RSC and the chemical sciences can help to solve challenges, through new research and innovation.
- To apply the RSC's work on chemicals strategy and principles for the management of chemicals in the environment using PFAS as a case study



Royal Society of Chemistry science policy work on PFAS

Camilla Alexander-White



Drivers and scope for a UK chemicals framework

To be considered alongside our vision
for a sustainable chemicals strategy

**Build trust in chemicals through agency
and science**

**Build economic prosperity, wellbeing and
quality of life through four pillars of
strategy and continued investment**

Education to develop the role of citizens in
transparent policymaking to benefit society

Regulation to protect health and
environment at the same time as fostering
innovation

Innovation that is responsible and
sustainable

Circular economy through new
infrastructure & technology

E	R
I	C



SUSTAINABILITY

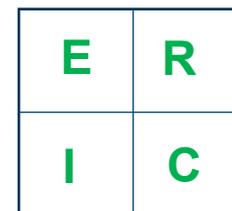
Principles for the management of
chemicals in the environment



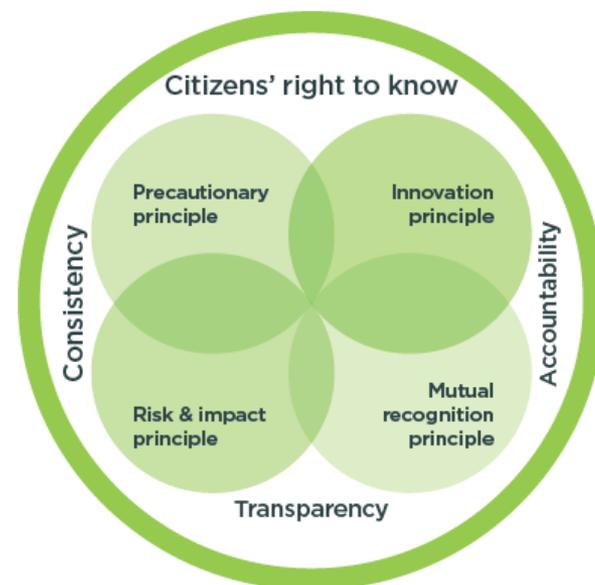
Operational principles

10. Pollution prevention principle
11. Polluter pays principle
12. Rectification at source principle
13. Impacts on other regions principle

Qu: Can the RSC ERIC strategy and the application of the foundational RSC 'principles' help to solve the regulatory and environmental challenges of PFAS?



Qu: Is a chemicals policy that balances precaution, risk, innovation and mutual recognition in decision-making a practical way of implementing 'do no harm' regulation?



(see Collins et al (2020) Key actions for a sustainable chemicals policy. Environment International 137 (2020) 105453.