



## **Cutting edge science applied to food safety and environmental protection**

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361 words

Helping to keep our food free from contamination and reducing the impact of man's activity on the environment are two of the main themes in a scientific review of the work carried out by the Central Science Laboratory over the last two years. In a 52 page report published today the laboratory gives an insight in to the work of its 500 scientists.

The Science Review 2007 uses a representative sample made up of 37 individual research projects to illustrate CSL's role in providing the scientific skills and advice to underpin a range of policy issues, particularly those of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Food Standards Agency.

The Review explores the science behind assessing a wide range of impacts, from the risks posed by plant pests and diseases for agricultural production in the UK and overseas, to the effects of agricultural and everyday household chemicals on the environment. It details CSL's vital role in assessing the use of wildlife management strategies to reduce risks to human health, and in monitoring the impact of non-native species on indigenous wildlife. From assessing the emerging risks of contamination in the food supply chain, to anticipating and developing contingency strategies to manage emergency events more effectively, the review demonstrates the extent of the laboratory's expertise across many areas.

Commenting on the publication of the report Professor Mike Roberts, CSL's Chief Executive said 'The two years covered by the Review have been significant in the development of science at CSL. For example techniques developed here were used to rapidly identify the HN51 avian influenza virus carrying 'Cellardyke' swan, as a migratory species. The speed of our service allowed policy makers to quickly develop appropriate containment strategies.

'In addition, there has been significant progress in raising the focus on quality across the organisation. The laboratory gained certification to ISO9001:2001 for the management procedures and was praised as a national centre of excellence in an independent Science Audit.

'Looking to the future CSL's scientists will have a key role to play as the importance of adapting to climate change across our core scientific areas becomes a major factor requiring further scientific study.'

**Ends**

#### **Notes For Editors**

1. CSL's Science Review 2007 covers the two year period ending 31 March 2007.
2. CSL is the UK's foremost public-sector laboratory providing support for evidence-based decision making in the fields of environmental quality, sustainable land use and food safety. We provide our public and private-sector customers with high-level technical services, applied research and consultancy aimed at assessing risks, protecting health, ensuring sustainability, and improving resilience to challenges. CSL is an Executive Agency of the UK Government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
3. Further information about the Science Audit can be found at:  
[www.csl.gov.uk/aboutCsl/scienceGroupsAndTeams/scienceAudit.cfm](http://www.csl.gov.uk/aboutCsl/scienceGroupsAndTeams/scienceAudit.cfm)
4. Copies of CSL's Science Review are available from [marketing@csl.gov.uk](mailto:marketing@csl.gov.uk), or online at [www.csl.gov.uk/newsAndResources/scienceReview07.pdf](http://www.csl.gov.uk/newsAndResources/scienceReview07.pdf)
5. For further information about the Science Review, please contact Dr Alison Wilson via 01904 462 380 or email: [alison.wilson@csl.gov.uk](mailto:alison.wilson@csl.gov.uk).