Written Question

Sarah Wollaston (Totnes Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department has assessed the effectiveness of her Department's best and most versatile land policy.

Jim Paice (Minister of State (Agriculture and Food), Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; South East Cambridgeshire, Conservative)

We have not recently assessed the effectiveness, of the best and most versatile land policy, but my Department has commissioned a project on the policy's application by planning authorities. This will assess the spatial location and extent of best and most versatile agricultural that has been built on and/or developed for non-agricultural purposes, in the last decade; and will evaluate the information and processes used by planners to assess BMV land issues. The report is due to be published by late summer.