

Background to the Researchers' Reply and Second Peer Review

1. Defra commissioned a research review report from Loughborough University entitled "Assessing the environmental impact of oxo-degradable plastics across their life cycle". Following an independent peer review, the report was completed and published in January 2010.
2. The industry, represented by the British Plastics Federation (BPI), submitted the "Industry Response to the Report" document (*Industry Response*) as well as a number of other documents that were referred to in this response. The *Industry Response* and supporting documents were then provided to the Loughborough University research team for their reply and possible amendment of the original report.
3. The Loughborough University research team prepared a reply to the *Industry Response*.
4. Defra commissioned a second peer review by three peer reviewers, two selected from a panel provided by the plastics industry and the third selected independently.
5. The research team were given the opportunity to modify their reply based on the peer reviewers comments.
6. Although the peer reviewers remained anonymous throughout this process they have agreed that we may publish their names when the reply and peer reviews are published.