

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 November 2012 11:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bees and neonicotinoids
Attachments: image001.gif

Hi [REDACTED]

Many apologies for the delay.

There was no press release but Defra press office spoke to several interested journalists on the basis of the script below. The context remains that Defra will act on the overall evidence.

[REDACTED]

Environment Secretary Owen Paterson said:

“The health of our bees is a real concern and we have always been open-minded about the results of any new science that links bee decline with the use of certain pesticides.

“There has been a lot of research into the effect of neonicotinoids on bees in laboratories but crucially we still don’t really know what impact they are having in the wild.

“That is why I have asked Fera to speed up the field studies they are doing to give us this missing evidence we need. Once we have the full picture in the New Year I will be asking independent experts to give us an up to date view on the safety of neonicotinoids.”

Background

- While recent research has revealed concerns about the impact of neonicotinoids on bees, we have accepted the advice of independent experts that there is not enough evidence of the impact in the field to justify any new restrictions today. Our former Chief Scientist Professor Sir Bob Watson directed a [review of the latest evidence](#) in the summer which concluded that there was not enough evidence to justify any restrictions.
- Further research under the Insect Pollinators Initiative, which is part-funded by Defra, was published online in Nature on 21 October (Gill et al, Combined pesticide exposure severely affects individual- and colony- level traits in bees, doi:10.1038/nature11585). Defra asked for the views of the independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides (ACP) on this study. The ACP advised that the study reinforces existing knowledge about potential implications for colony survival in laboratory studies. However, it does not fill gaps in knowledge about exposure in the field and about evidence of actual damage in the field.
- However, we have asked Fera to speed up the completion of field research they are carrying out to give us a better picture of the impact of neonicotinoids on bees and address this gap in the current evidence. These findings will be considered by the independent ACP early in the New Year.
- We are also working with interested parties to understand better the wider environmental, economic and human health consequences of possible restrictions, so that any action we may decide to take limits any negative knock-on effects.

[redacted] Pesticides and chemicals policy
Chemicals and Emerging Technologies
Defra
Foss House, Room 312
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Tel: [redacted]
E-mail: [redacted]

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]]
Sent: 27 November 2012 10:27
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Bees and neonicotinoids

Hi [redacted]
Any luck with getting hold of the 'official line' given to the press on neonicotinoids?
Kind regards
[redacted]

[redacted]

NFU
Agriculture House
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2TZ

Tel: [redacted]
Fax: [redacted]
Mob: [redacted]



From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 November 2012 18:11
To: [redacted]
Subject: RE: Bees and neonicotinoids

Hi [redacted]

Apologies, I have tried but failed to get hold of appropriate press officer on this. I will try again on Monday but the position is essentially as we discussed.

[redacted]

[redacted] Pesticides and chemicals policy

Chemicals and Emerging Technologies
Defra
Foss House, Room 312
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Tel: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 November 2012 16:30
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bees and neonicotinoids

Hi [REDACTED]
Realise you must be busy, but would be grateful for that press release information that outlines Owen Paterson's response to the EAC that calls for Defra officials to re-examine the practical consequences of restricting the use of neonicotinoids, as reported in the press today.
Many thanks

[REDACTED]

NFU
Agriculture House
Stoneleigh Park
Warwickshire
CV8 2TZ
Tel: [REDACTED]
Fax: [REDACTED]
Mob: [REDACTED]



The voice of British farming - www.nfuonline.com

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 November 2012 12:06
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Bees and neonicotinoids

[REDACTED]

Following our discussion, I attach a link to the Commission document.

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/consumers/consumer_safety/132042_en.htm

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Pesticides and chemicals policy

Chemicals and Emerging Technologies

Defra
Foss House, Room 312
1-2 Peasholme Green

York

YO1 7PX

Tel: [redacted]
E-mail: [redacted]

[redacted]

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