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From Lord De Mauley
Parliamentary Under Secretary

[REDACTED]
Thank you for your letter of 25 June, about neonicotinoid pesticides. I am sorry for the delay in responding, but I understand that Defra's Director of Food and Green Economy, Neil Thornton, has written to you recently on this subject and in some detail.

Thank you for highlighting the Government's science-based approach to negotiations on neonicotinoid pesticides at EU level. As you will be aware, we attach great importance to having good scientific evidence to take forward work on this contentious issue. We take any threat to bees very seriously and have approached the issue of neonicotinoids in this light, making it clear that we are prepared to take action if the evidence indicates a need. While the UK and a number of other member states could not support the Commission's proposal for restrictions on the three neonicotinoids, we were able to secure an assurance from the Commission that it will be possible to carry out further field research on the risks to bees from neonicotinoids.

Neil Thornton's letter explained that we have established an external evidence advisory group on pollinators and also that officials in Defra are keen to know your views on future evidence requirements in detail. I hope that it will be possible for you to meet with officials to discuss this work.

Lord De Mauley



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