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From the Chief Scientific Adviser

Professor Ian Boyd

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5th November 2013

Dear [REDACTED]

Research needs for neonicotinoids

As you are aware, Defra is considering research needs on neonicotinoids. The Secretary of State has asked me to liaise with Syngenta about the issue.

In considering the data needed to inform future decision-making, including the Commission review scheduled for 2015, the Government considers that there are two overlapping but distinct issues to address. First it is, of course, vital to have research that is of robust scientific quality and which addresses the questions which need to be answered for regulatory purposes. Second, it is necessary to do everything possible to ensure that the work done is understood by EFSA, by the scientific community and by NGOs and has credibility with them.

I am encouraged by the reports I have had from Arwyn Davies and his colleagues following their meeting with you. The work you are carrying out, and particularly the planned collaboration with Bayer, does seem to address the regulatory requirements – as I would expect – but also the need for transparency and engagement with stakeholders. It would therefore be very helpful to discuss in a little more detail with Syngenta representatives what you plan and how you propose to get the greatest possible buy-in from open-minded experts and stakeholders.

It is clearly critically important to produce research that the European Commission will accept as relevant to future decision-making. I therefore wondered whether it would be helpful to suggest that the Commission seek a view from EFSA on your proposed approach.

It would be very useful to discuss these issues with the appropriate people in Syngenta. [REDACTED]



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

I am writing in similar terms to [REDACTED] at Bayer. I would be happy to meet with Syngenta and Bayer separately or together as suits you best. My office will be in touch to discuss possible arrangements.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian L. Boyd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "I" and a stylized "B".

Professor Ian Boyd