

The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP)

## Full Minutes of the meeting of the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) held 14 December 2021

*The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.*

### **Those present:**

#### **Chairman:**

Prof W Cushley

#### **Members:**

Prof R Blackshaw; Mr J Clarke; Mr R Davis; Mr M Dempsey; Prof M Eddleston; Dr J Garratt; Mr M Glynn; Dr M Hare; Dr C Harris; Prof T Hutchinson; Prof T Lock; Dr R Mann; Dr C Morris; Dr M Rose; Prof A Smith; Prof D Spurgeon; Mr P Stephenson; Prof M Whelan and Prof M Wright

#### **Assessors:**

Dr S Jess (representing the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Northern Ireland) Mr M Williams (Welsh Government); and Ms G Reay (representing Scottish Government).

#### **Advisors:**

Mr A Dixon (HSE); Mr D Flynn (HSE) Ms S Mattock (HSE); Ms C Meacher (Defra); Mr C Rundle (HSE); Mr J Newman (Environment Agency); Mr G Stark (HSE) and Ms M Wade (HSE)

#### **Others:**

Mr J Dale (HSE); Ms S Goodchild (HSE); Mr M Hawkins (HSE); Mr D Jones (FSA); Ms E Kumar (Environment Agency); Ms J O'Leary Quinn (HSE) and Ms E Williams (Defra)

#### **Apologies:**

Ms H Chambers; Dr H Nakeeb (UKHSA); Mr B Maycock (FSA) and Dr C Snaith (HSE)

## **Agenda Item 1: Introduction**

1.1 The Chair reminded the meeting of the confidentiality of the papers and their discussions. If Members believed that they had a commercial or financial interest in any of the items being discussed, they were required to declare their interest to the Chair and Secretariat prior to the meeting. They may then either be invited to absent themselves from the discussions, not participate and/or not be involved in any discussions and decision-making, unless invited to do so.

1.2 Two Members identified potential conflict of interests, these were deemed to be non-personal specific conflicts and it was agreed they could remain and participate in the discussion on the relevant agenda items.

## **Agenda Item 2: Full Minutes of the previous meeting [ECP 1 (48/2021)]**

2.1 The draft Full Minutes of the November 2021 meeting were agreed.

## **Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising and Forward Business Plan [ECP 2 (48/2021)]**

3.1 The Secretariat provided an update on matters arising from previous meetings and invited Members to suggest any additions/amendments to the forward business plan which would be incorporated before the next meeting.

## **Agenda Item 4: Independent Scientific Advice: Cinmethylin [ECP 3 (48/2021)]**

4.1 Cinmethylin was first considered by the Committee in November 2020 and then again in November 2021, when additional issues requiring Independent Scientific Advice had been identified by HSE. Committee Members considered the questions put to them for cinmethylin and began to formulate their advice.

4.2 The Secretariat introduced a working draft of the Independent Scientific Advice for cinmethylin. Members formally approved the draft note as a true representation of the advice they provided, subject to amendments. The advice note will be submitted to HSE.

## **Agenda Item 5: Emergency Authorisation Guiding Principles**

5.1 Defra updated the Committee on their progress in drafting documentation on the guiding principles of Article 53 of Regulation No 1107/2009. Defra noted this work was done in consultation with the Devolved Administrations and HSE. The Committee noted the update and that no further amendments to the principles were anticipated. The

Committee thanked the Defra representative for answering their questions and requested to be kept informed of their progress and the implementation schedule.

## **Agenda Item 6: First RPAS authorisation for application of pesticides in the UK [ECP 4 (48/2021)]**

6.1 HSE introduced a paper which informed the Committee of the first experimental permit issued in the UK for the application of pesticides via the use of a Remotely Piloted Application System (RPAS). HSE noted this was done in parallel with leading an OECD initiative to establish the 'current state of knowledge' on RPAS spraying and the establishment of a domestic stakeholder group.

6.2 Members expressed interest in the developments and thanked HSE for the paper.

## **Agenda Item 7: Date of next meeting**

7.1 25 January 2022 – To be held virtually.

## **Agenda Item 8: Any other business**

### **8.1 Stakeholder correspondence**

8.1.1 Members noted the Committee's reply to correspondence received from a stakeholder regarding the ECP advice note for '1-4 Sight' on potatoes.

8.1.2 The Committee noted that, following the advice being submitted to government, Members had been involved in a series of meetings between HSE and the FSA to explore the possibility of HSE using further data in their risk assessment.

### **8.2 Media article – for information**

8.2.1 Members noted a recent article in The Guardian which referred to advice produced by the ECP for an application discussed at an earlier meeting.

### **8.3 Chair's report**

8.3.1 The Chair thanked all present for their contributions over the course of the year.

**Ethan Clabby  
ECP Secretariat  
January 2022**