

The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP)

Full Minutes of the meeting of the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) held 25 January 2022

The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams.

Those present:

Chairman:

Prof W Cushley

Members:

Prof R Blackshaw; Mr J Clarke; Mr M Dempsey; Prof M Eddleston; Mr M Glynn; Dr C Harris; Prof T Lock; Dr M Rose; Prof D Spurgeon and Prof M Whelan

Assessors:

Mr B MacDonald (Welsh Government) and Ms G Reay (Scottish Government).

Advisors:

Mr A Dixon (HSE); Mr D Flynn (HSE); Ms S Hugo (Defra); Mr B Maycock (FSA); Ms C Meacher (Defra); Ms H Nakeeb (UKHSA); Dr J Newman (Environment Agency); Dr C Snaith (HSE) and Ms M Wade (HSE)

Others:

Mr M Hawkins (HSE); Ms E Kumar (Environment Agency); Ms J Lakey (Defra); Ms S Mason (HSE) and Ms H Markus (Defra)

Apologies:

Ms H Chambers; Dr J Garratt; Dr R Mann; Mr P Stephenson; Prof M Wright; Dr S Jess (DAERA) and Mr G Stark (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 The Committee noted Mr M Williams would no longer be serving as the assessor for the Welsh Government, with Mr B MacDonald taking up the post. The Chair thanked Mr M Williams for his work with the Committee and welcomed Mr B MacDonald.

Agenda Item 2: Full Minutes of the previous meeting [ECP 1 (49/2022)]

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

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising and Forward Business Plan [ECP 2 (49/2022)]

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.

3.2 The Committee noted the publication of the decision on the application for the emergency authorisation of 'Cruiser SB'. Members further noted the term 'flowering crops' as used in the statement was ambiguous in its meaning.

Agenda Item 4: Independent Scientific Advice: Iron [ECP 3 (49/2022)]

4.1 Iron was first considered by the Committee in November 2021. HSE identified several areas that would require advice, and Committee Members could explore any aspects of the risk assessment and underlying guidance they considered to be of interest.

4.2 The Secretariat introduced a working draft of the Independent Scientific Advice for iron. 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: Update of review of WIIS [ECP 4 (49/2022)]

5.1 Defra presented the preliminary findings of the review on the Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) in England. The review is investigating the current scope of WIIS, the management and governance of the programme, the level and model of WIIS funding and how the data produced is used and communicated.

5.2 Members discussed:

- how cases are accepted on to WIIS as part of the current triage model, and what schemes were available for cases not accepted
- whether chronic risk assessments should be considered using animals that have been killed as a result of a known accident rather than poisonings
- whether biocides should be included as part of the scheme due to rodenticide use
- how the scheme is funded and the number of cases this covers

Agenda Item 6: Date of next meeting

6.1 8 March 2022 – To be held virtually.

Agenda Item 7: Any other business

7.1 Draft ECP Annual Report 2021 [ECP 5 (49/2022)]

7.1.1 Member noted a draft of the Committee's 2021 Annual Report. Comments are to be sent to the Secretariat by 14 February 2022.

7.2 Update from Defra

7.2.1 Defra presented to the Committee on the ongoing regulatory reform work and review of independent scientific advice. They noted these projects would be progressed at a similar pace and updated the Committee on their progress.

7.2.2 Members expressed their interest in the developments and agreed to liaise with Defra alongside other Expert Committees as part of the reviews.

7.3 Chair's report

7.3.1 The Chair noted the ongoing recruitment exercise had progressed to the interview stage and informed the Committee of the expected timeframe.

**Ethan Clabby
ECP Secretariat
March 2022**