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Your ref: [REDACTED]
Our ref: PO289823/RM

27 November 2012

From Lord de Mauley
Parliamentary Under Secretary

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 25 October and your support for the approach Defra has taken on the risk assessment for neonicotinoids.

We have made it absolutely clear that we take threats to pollinators very seriously and we are quite prepared to take regulatory action. However, we will reach this decision on the basis of evidence and not as an unconsidered reaction to pressure. Defra actively assesses all the evidence on neonicotinoids and continues to develop a body of its own research to fill gaps in the state of knowledge.

You are right to point out that any decision to restrict the use of neonicotinoids would have consequences in a number of areas. These include resistance management, the effective control of pests and the possible impacts of increased use of alternative products. None of this should deter the Government from taking necessary measures, but it underlines the importance of taking decisions on the basis of the best evidence and the fullest possible understanding of the risks.

Yrs sincerely

Rupert de Mauley

