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Telephone: 01733 201 210
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Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Buglife's proposed judicial review claim regarding neonicotinoid insecticides and environmental safety

I write further to our letter of 18 December 2012.

You will recall that we decided not to issue judicial review proceedings in respect of the decision taken by the Secretary of State on 18 September 2012. This was based on your clear assurance that the issue of whether to review the approvals of neonicotinoid insecticides would be reconsidered by the Secretary of State as soon as the results of further research had become available (letter 3 December 2012, paragraph 49).

EFSA published its peer review of the risk assessment for clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam on 16 January 2013. The EFSA report concluded that a high risk was indicated for:

- Exposure from pollen and nectar used on crops attractive to honey bees;
- Exposure to honey bees from dust from sowing; and
- Honey bees exposed to Thiamethoxam through guttation fluid.

The risk assessment was unable to rule out a similar high risk for wild pollinators.

The report also proposed a much more comprehensive risk assessment for bees, introduced a higher level of scrutiny for interpretation of field studies and highlighted the lack of data on impacts on non-bee pollinators.



We therefore understand that the only further research which remains outstanding is the two studies being conducted by Defra's Food and Environment Agency (FERA):

- PS2370 "On the interpretation of pesticide residues and disease in honey bees"
- PS2371 "Effects of neonicotinoid seed treatments on bumble bee colonies under field conditions"

Your letter of 3 December 2012 indicated that these results should be available "early in 2013." (paragraph 49). Defra's written evidence to the Environmental Audit Committee indicated that in relation to PS2371 "the aim is to have a complete set of results for consideration at the turn of the year" and that PS2370 "will be carried through on the same timescale as the bumble bee study" (paragraph 48).

We had therefore expected that the results from these studies would have been completed in January and are somewhat concerned by the apparent lack of progress. Please therefore provide us with an update on when you expect these results to become available, together with an outline of the process and likely timescales for (a) their consideration by the Secretary of State and relevant advisory bodies and (b) a decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Matt Shardlow', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Matt Shardlow
CEO

Cc. Joan Whalley