

## **Extract from email exchange entitled 'National Pollinator Strategy – Update'**

Email exchange between Defra's Nature Improvement Programme, Countryside and Nature Directorate to members of the Pollinator Advisory Steering Group (PASG).

Email 1 dated 23 July 2015 from Defra to PASG members:

Dear PASG members,

As you're no doubt aware, Defra has followed the advice of the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides and our Chief Scientist, to grant a limited emergency authorisation of two pesticides in areas where oil rape crops are at risk of pest damage. We want to emphasise that this decision to grant a limited emergency authorisation for a small area was based on the latest evidence and expert opinion. The Committee recommended rejecting authorising 79% of the crop area and instead recommended a much more limited and controlled application for 5% of the crop area for the worst affected areas. This authorisation is time-limited and only covers seed for sowing this summer/autumn. Defra's approach contrasts with other EU countries such as Denmark, which have issued unrestricted emergency authorisations for the same use of neonicotinoids. In the longer term, the Commission has begun a review of the science relating to the restrictions. Defra will contribute to the review and will base its view on future regulation on all the available scientific evidence.

The NPS set out the government's continued support for the strict regulation of pesticides based on scientific risk assessment. We also believe that authorised pesticides need to be used responsibly and sustainably, minimising the residual risks. Defra has fully applied the current restrictions on the use of neonicotinoids.

Email 2 of 28 July 2015 from the NFU to PASG members

Hi

I've a few comments

1) I do not think that the recent emergency authorisation for neonicotinoids warrants us convening an emergency meeting of the PASG. I do not believe the decision threatens to derail the NPS or has a significant impact on the delivery of any specific NPS action. Having restrictions in place on the use of neonicotinoids was not part of or key to the delivery of any policy action or evidence action in the NPS, thus I cannot see how the granting of an emergency authorisation for the time-limited use of neonicotinoid over a relatively small area on just one crop changes that situation.

2) Also, in light of the fact Friends of the Earth is considering taking legal steps against the Government [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press\\_releases/friends-earth-takes-first-legal-steps-pesticides-decision\\_28072015](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/press_releases/friends-earth-takes-first-legal-steps-pesticides-decision_28072015) I would be concerned that it is not appropriate for us to come together and discuss our thinking about this issue at this time. If the issue of a judicial review has passed, I am sure we would all welcome an update at the next scheduled PASG meeting. Even then, I do not believe it should be allowed to dominate proceedings, after all we are dealing with the implementation of a wide-ranging National Pollinator Strategy, not a National Pesticide Strategy.

Kind regards