

The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF)

Annual Report 2021

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Health and Safety Executive



Contents

Chair's foreword	3
Summary of 2021 programme	5
Role of the Committee	7
Annex 1 – Terms of Reference	16
Annex 2 – Members	26
Annex 3 – Fees and reimbursement	33
Annex 4 – Analytical sub-group	34

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This document is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/expert-committee-on-pesticides>

Chair's foreword

The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) is made up entirely of independent members with a wide range of expertise and advises on the pesticide residues in food monitoring programme. Fruit and vegetables are an important part of a healthy, balanced diet. We want people to feel confident that the risk of pesticide residues is managed. There is a monitoring programme for pesticide residues which samples fruit, vegetables and other foodstuffs and these results are freely available.

This is the eleventh annual report from PRiF. In 2021, 3,530 samples of food and drink available in the UK supply chain were tested for pesticide residues. Up to 397 pesticides were tested for.

Part of the monitoring programme is targeted at foods where we expect to find residues. The programme uses the latest technology for analysis, which is constantly improving, so that each year we can look for more pesticides at lower levels. Around half (48.64%) of the samples tested by the laboratory did not have any residues of the pesticides tested for. 2.55% of the samples contained a residue above the maximum residue level (MRL) set by law. We examined these findings to see why a breach had occurred and to advise what action could be taken to help prevent recurrence.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) conducts a screening assessment of all the residues found in the pesticide residues in food monitoring programme. If screening identifies any dietary intakes exceeding the relevant health-based reference values, then HSE presents more detailed risk assessments to consider whether there are any implications for health. Detailed risk assessments, where needed, are presented in the quarterly reports. In these assessments, even where food contains a residue above the MRL, HSE rarely finds any likely risk to the health of people who have eaten the food.

Throughout 2021, PRiF has advised on the [quarterly reports on the results of the pesticide residues in food monitoring programme](#), which are published on GOV.UK. We also advised regularly on results for beans with pods, grapes, okra and potatoes which are published monthly as part of a rolling programme. Both the results and sample details for the rolling and quarterly reports are published in an accessible, useable format on [data.gov.uk](#).

In 2021, due to EU Exit, surveys were reported separately for samples collected in Great Britain and those collected in Northern Ireland within each of the quarterly reports. The same level of analytical testing was applied and risk assessments were performed for all samples. HSE, as the competent authority, will be publishing a summary of the results for Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the UK as a whole in their [annual report](#) which can be read in conjunction with our report.

For information about the monitoring programme, please look at our web page on GOV.UK: [Pesticide Residues in Food Results of Monitoring Programme](#)

Please contact us if you have any comments: prif@hse.gov.uk

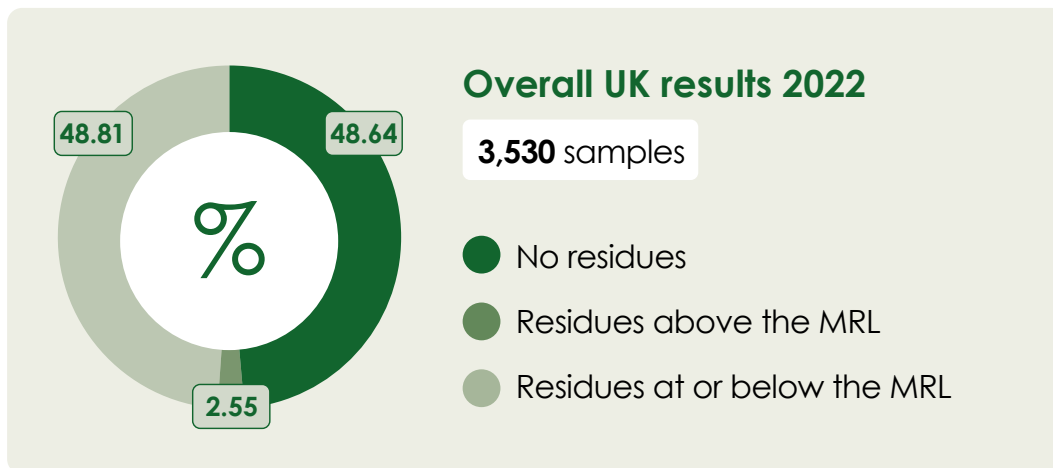
Ann Davison

Chair, UK Expert Committee on Pesticides

Summary of 2021 programme

In 2021, 3,530 samples were collected from both Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Each sample was tested for many different pesticides. Of the pesticides looked for:

- 48.64% of samples contained none of the residues sought
- 48.81% of samples contained a residue at or below the MRL
- 2.55% of samples contained a residue over the MRL



All of the samples in which a residue was detected were checked for risk to the consumers by means of a risk assessment screening mechanism. In the PRiF quarterly reports of 2021 we published results of 41 detailed short-term risk assessments where HSE wanted to consider in more detail whether there was a concern for human health.

If, following the risk assessment, HSE has concerns about the potential risk to health of people eating these foods, information about the food sample is referred to the Food Standards Agency for further consideration and follow-up action if required.

A detailed look at the set-up of the programme, an overview of all findings as well as a breakdown of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland programmes, and follow-up action taken by HSE as the competent authority are available in the [HSE 2021 annual report](#).



Role of the Committee

The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food are appointed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to advise Defra, the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Food Standards Agency on a monitoring programme that checks food and drink in the UK for traces of pesticide residues.

The government can seek advice from PRiF, as an independent body of experts on any area of the monitoring programme. One of the purposes of the programme is to check whether residues found in food and drink are above the MRLs set by law.

The programme also assesses whether the levels of residues found are likely to impact on human health, and whether residues might be of concern to particular groups of vulnerable consumers such as babies, toddlers and the elderly. Where more than one pesticide is found with similar modes of action for certain high-priority groups of pesticides, HSE assesses if the impact of the sum of the residues is of concern.

The programme also acts as a check that results are as expected by the regulatory regime when the law on using pesticides or on pesticide residues in food were set.

We provide advice to government on:

- presenting their findings from the monitoring programmes of pesticide residues in food in Great Britain and Northern Ireland – in particular, ensuring that results can be readily and appropriately understood by the public in plain English
- planned and ad-hoc government programmes to monitor pesticide residues in foodstuffs – in particular, on foods to be surveyed (taking account of changing diets), availability of produce, location and frequency of sampling, the pesticides to be sought and the methodologies used
- determining likely causes of adverse findings detected in the monitoring programme
- any industry, academic or other developments relevant to effective operation of the monitoring programme

- any guidance relevant to effective operation of the monitoring programme
- any other issues as requested by government relating to pesticide residues in food

PRiF **does not:**

- advise whether pesticides should be approved for use or withdrawn from the market
- set government policy on pesticides
- take account of or assess the impact of pesticides on the environment
- promote or obstruct the use of pesticides

We meet four times a year and representatives from government departments attend our meetings as officials. HSE provides our administration.

Communicating the results and work of the monitoring programme

We want as many people as possible to be aware of the official pesticide residue testing programme and to understand what we do. To do this we ensure that:

- HSE publishes all the monitoring data on data.gov.uk in an accessible format every quarter
- HSE publishes the results of the rolling reporting on data.gov.uk every month
- we publish an annual report in plain English
- our Chair is available for interviews with the media

We have also worked with HSE to prepare some extra background and explanatory information:

- a glossary is published in each quarterly report

If you would like to receive notifications of publications, please email pesticideresiduesteam@hse.gov.uk to join the mailing list.

Activities in 2021

At each of our meetings, HSE presents quarterly results of the pesticide residues in food monitoring programme, which we review and provide advice on areas where we feel additional information or follow-up action would be useful.

Alongside this, in 2021, we also engaged with Defra who were leading on producing a revised National Action Plan. As a Committee we participated in the ongoing stakeholder engagement and provided comments for Defra and the Devolved Administrations to consider.

Actions following non-compliant results

Throughout 2021, we have advised government on follow-up action where appropriate. If residue results suggested illegal use of a pesticide within the UK, HSE's enforcement branch conducted an investigation. In other cases, HSE notified food brand owners of non-compliant results and asked the producer to investigate the cause.

PRiF members have experience of previous residue issues in a variety of agronomic and food industry sectors. PRiF did not pre-empt investigations but was able to give HSE advice on likely causes for non-compliant residues. Examples include the likelihood of spray drift or pesticide volatilisation under specific weather conditions and whether residues could carry-over in soil or growing substrates, or could have arisen from emergency off-label authorisations for specific pesticide use. We also consider the likelihood of the food in fact being grown elsewhere than that given on the label (which might just be where the food was processed, packed for consumer purchase or the address of the brand owner).

For example, in the mushroom survey, we saw eight samples with a residue of mepiquat and two samples with a residue of chlormequat. There are no plant protection products containing mepiquat or chlormequat authorised for use on mushrooms in the UK. HSE passed details of the samples to their enforcement team to investigate the findings.

Our members advised that mepiquat and chlormequat are approved for use on cereal crops and residues could be transmitted from straw which is used as a growing medium for mushrooms. Although the pesticide label states the treated straw should not be used for mushroom production, it could be useful to bring the issue to the attention of the mushroom industry so they could put steps in place to reduce inadvertent contamination of the mushrooms. HSE engaged with the industry accordingly.

Feedback from producers

At each of our meetings, we have used our members' expertise to help HSE assess producers' written summaries of completed investigations and corrective actions to determine if there is a need for a change in practice or guidance. The responses that are received are usually from major retail outlets and their suppliers who have the capacity to do an in-depth investigation into the source of the residue and put steps in place to avoid any further non-compliance. However, many of the non-compliant samples have been collected from wholesale markets or smaller retailers and responses are not often seen from these suppliers and retailers. We know this is probably because smaller retailers and wholesalers do not have the same resources or technical support as the big retailers and therefore do not carry out a similar investigation.

We wanted to try and raise awareness and understanding, particularly in the wholesale sector, so we worked with HSE to create a guidance leaflet. This can be included with their non-compliance letter. The leaflet provides clear information of possible next steps the recipient could take to source compliant material and the types of information that would be useful for HSE and ourselves to see in a response. We hope that the leaflet will provide useful practical information to reduce non-compliance.

Producer follow-up actions

It is very helpful when producers give us information on the way they have adapted to avoid a repeat of residues over the MRL. For example, a rice supplier told us how they have now improved their own oversight of their supply chain to ensure that all their farmers work only with approved pesticides. A raspberry producer found that residues had resulted from spray drift from a neighbouring farm growing vegetables. While the obligation is on the user to minimise spray drift, the raspberry producer updated their training on working with neighbouring farmers. This meant assessing the risk posed by the chemicals that neighbouring farmers apply to their crops and ensuring that the necessary controls are in place to minimise drift and cross-contamination. A broccoli producer explained that the residue we found would not have been from fungicide use. HSE concluded that it came, legally, from application of an approved fertiliser.

Ongoing activities

Potatoes and Chlorpropham

The HSE monitoring programme for pesticide residues in food, on which PRiF advises, plays an important role in identifying issues and providing evidence to support regulatory decisions on the management of these chemicals. A good example is chlorpropham, which was used since at least the 1960s to prevent potatoes sprouting in storage. PRiF advised HSE that collecting samples of potatoes should be a key and regular focus in each year's programme, as they are a UK staple food.+

During the early 2000s, there were occasional findings of residues of chlorpropham over the MRL. Chlorpropham was not easy to apply evenly because it was applied as a fog (particles of product suspended in air pumped into the store) and an even application was especially hard to achieve where the potatoes were kept in boxes within the store. In 2008, the potato industry set up a Potato Industry Storage group to develop better practices. Each year the group shared results of their own monitoring with HSE and PRiF for information. PRiF wrote to the ACP about continued findings above the MRL, and this along with the industry monitoring data was part of the information evaluated in the ongoing regulatory review that was considered by the ACP and their successor committee the ECP.

The first reduction of total dose of CIPC was implemented in 2014, reducing the total dose of CIPC permitted on processing potatoes from 63.75 to 36 g/tonne by 2017. From 2017 onwards, PRiF noticed that, even with residues below the MRL, there were occasional low-level exceedances of the acute reference dose – though an effect on health would be unlikely.

During the course of the UK review, PRiF advised HSE to move to monthly collecting and reporting of samples, from potato stores and delivery to factories, as well as in supermarkets, other shops and ports, and asked whether producers could be notified of residues found, even below the MRL in place at that time. HSE contacted more suppliers and this enabled the potato industry to consider the situations when higher residues occurred. This formed part of the information used in the regulatory review of chlorpropham.

In 2019, approval for the use of products containing chlorpropham was not renewed. This was because the data evaluated to support use on potatoes was not considered to demonstrate a sufficient degree of assurance regarding potential risk to human health. Stored potatoes are now treated with spearmint and orange oil or ethylene gas to prevent sprouts developing. 1,4-DMN has also recently been approved for use in the UK.

Chlorate and infant food

The pesticide sodium chlorate is a residual broad action weed killer that is no longer authorised for use. Until June 2020, residues of chlorate were subject to a default MRL of 0.01 milligrams per kilogram. This default was set at the nominal detection limit rather than on an assessment of health risks. This is normal practice for pesticides that are not approved. However, in this case, the legislation had no provision that chlorate residues in food might come from sources other than pesticide use. Chlorate can originate from chlorine-based disinfectants and from the chlorinated public water supply. These are used in crop irrigation and in food production to ensure microbiological safety for water treatment, washing and other processing. Such uses could lead to chlorate residues above the pesticide MRL which were still subject to the pesticide legislation.

PRiF commented directly to the European Commission, that in our opinion chlorate residues may prove impossible to reduce when the main source of chlorate is likely to be from treated drinking water or the use of legitimate biocides. UK government departments and industry groups shared this concern. PRiF commented that the effect on overall food safety – including microbiological safety – should be taken into account. As a result, the EU agreed new MRLs for chlorate that came into force on 20 June 2020. The new chlorate MRLs include a footnote referring specifically to taking account of the use of biocides during processing in addition to the MRLs for food as harvested or initially produced. The footnote exceptionally specifies that for considering compliance with chlorate MRLs, simple types of processing that do not affect the other residue levels, such as packing, washing, chopping and freezing, can be taken into account. The responsibility for providing evidence showing that residues from processing can be taken into account lies with the food business operator.

Infant food and infant formula milk are an exception and set under separate legislation managed by UK health departments. The footnote that applies to other foods cannot be used for infant foods, although residues occur for the same reasons. Therefore, a precautionary MRL

of 0.01 milligrams per kilogram applies to any pesticide residue. In 2021 we found 11 chlorate residues above the pesticide MRL in infant food. Each residue was risk-assessed and we concluded in all cases that an effect on health from the chlorate residues was either not expected or unlikely. We are satisfied that the origin of these residues is not pesticides but is chlorate from water used in manufacturing or chlorate as a residue from disinfectant use. Manufacturers and their trade groups have kept us updated on the strategies the industry is adopting to minimise the presence of chlorate without compromising microbiological safety.

PRiF will continue to publish an explanation of this context alongside chlorate results. We are not advising that food companies change their existing practices as a result of these findings. We exclude chlorate results from some year-on-year pesticide residue trend analyses.

We believe that the pesticide MRL is an inappropriate tool for managing chlorate residues from the use of water and disinfectants in infant food production. We have made sure that the lead government departments, co-ordinated by the Department of Health and Social Care, are aware of the situation. We are grateful for their engagement with us on the issue. There is ongoing work by the Nutrition Related Labelling, Composition and Standards Group to consider possible resolutions to this problem.

DDT

This year, DDT was found in one sample of cheese, one sample of eggs and seven samples of fish. The levels found would not be expected to have an effect on health, and overall are consistent with the continued decline of this pesticide in the environment.

The use of DDT is banned in the UK and banned or heavily restricted in many countries worldwide. It isn't allowed for use on food crops anymore, but it is still used in some countries outside the EU as a public health insecticide. Residues of DDT take a long time to break down in the environment and can accumulate in fatty tissue, which is a major reason that it has been banned in the EU and many other countries.

Due to the bans and restrictions on use, the levels in food have decreased substantially since the 1960s and 1970s. Even so, because it takes a long time to break down, we do expect, and do see, occasional DDT residues in the monitoring results. Overall, the incidence and the size of residues have fallen steadily over time, which is what we would expect. In recent years none of the findings were unusual, unexpected or of concern.

The residues found nowadays are at levels that would not be expected to have any effect on health, either in the short term or in the long term, when checked against today's understanding of the effect of DDT on health. As a committee, we take care to ensure we look thoroughly at this during our meetings, and HSE ensures that the Food Standards Agency is also actively involved in the considerations.

For residues found in 2021, we can tell from the chemical form detected by the laboratories whether the residues are from historic use (which is what is usually found). We ensure this is explained every time DDT results are published to try to make it as clear as we can that the results show food producers are not using DDT today. However, there are occasional media stories about DDT and various links and associations, which do not make this distinction.

The bigger picture

People are concerned about health, the environment and how food is produced. Pesticides used in the incorrect way or in the wrong amounts can harm people, wildlife and the environment, so they must be handled with care. Pesticides can only be used in UK agriculture in line with the laws and guidance controlling their use.

As regulating pesticides is a complicated area, there are a number of different organisations involved. On behalf of Defra and the Devolved Administrations, the Health and Safety Executive authorises and controls pesticides for use in the UK, as well as monitoring pesticide residues in the UK food supply no matter where the food was produced. The Food Standards Agency has overall responsibility for food safety.

Most residues come from pesticides being used on crops. To work effectively, pesticides must be used in the correct amounts and at the right time. The amount of residue in a food is dependent on:

- how much pesticide was used
- when it was applied in relation to harvest date
- how it is metabolised by plants and animals
- how it breaks down in the environment

In addition to this, residues can sometimes be due to contamination (small amounts of pesticide that remain in the environment after legitimate use). Due to significant technical improvements in laboratory analysis, HSE now has the capability to detect very low levels of residues. So, it is possible that, as methods become more sensitive, more residues may be found.

HSE's work and open reporting system have encouraged producers and retailers to be responsible about their use of pesticides in their supply chains. We ensure that HSE is transparent about their work and publishes the results, including brand names, where samples were obtained and where possible who produced them.

The Expert Committee on Pesticides

The Expert Committee on Pesticides is responsible in the UK for giving advice on using and handling pesticides and for considering incidents related to the effect pesticides have on wildlife and the environment. The ECP advises the government on which crops a pesticide may be used on, how it may be used and how much can be used on a crop. It takes account of any new information about an authorised pesticide to see if it should be used at a reduced rate, under different conditions or withdrawn from sale. We let the Expert Committee on Pesticides know if we see something in our results that falls inside their remit.



ANNEX 1

Terms of Reference

The Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food will work closely with the Chemicals Regulation Directorate and the Food Standards Agency, to:

- provide independent advice to the Health and Safety Executive and the Food Standards Agency (FSA), and UK Ministers¹, on the planning of surveillance programmes for pesticide residues in the UK food supply;
 - the evaluation of the results; and
 - procedures for sampling, sample processing and new methods of analysis.
- make its findings and recommendations available to Government, consumers and the food and farming industries in a way which aims to be comprehensive, understandable and timely.
- report to Defra's Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA); Chairs of expert committees will meet annually with the CSA and provide an annual summary of the work of the committee to Defra's Annual Report of the Science Advisory Council (SAC);
- support the CSA as appropriate during emergencies; and
- operate in line with the Government's Principles for Scientific Advice and the Code of Practice for Scientific Advisory Committees.

General terms of reference for Defra Scientific Advisory Committees

Defra's access to independent, authoritative, impartial and timely science and technical advice, and the experts who provide it, is vital to support our policies, priorities and responsibilities. Details are available on Defra's website.

¹ The Ministers referred to are: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministers of the Scottish Government, Welsh ministers and the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland

The lead Defra Minister for the Pesticide Residues in Food Expert Committee will:

- Set terms of reference for the Committee;
- Agree strategic work plans, receive reports and advice; and
- Receive periodic reviews of the Committee's functions and value for money;
- Consult the Devolved Administrations and other Departments as appropriate about the Committee and its work.

The Expert Committee has the ultimate right to escalate matters to UK Ministers. As an Expert Committee of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Pesticide Residues in Food Committee will:

1. Provide advice to, and work collaboratively with, officials and key office holders such as the Defra Chief Scientific Adviser, the Chief Veterinary Officer or the Chief Economist, other delivery partners (e.g. Network bodies, other departments and Government agencies, the devolved administrations, other public bodies, EU and international technical and expert groups). Contribute to developing the evidence base, analysing and interpreting evidence and providing judgements on quality and relevance.
2. Working strategically, help to: identify future issues of concern; provide advice and interpretation on state and impacts; connect to related agendas both in other Government Departments (OGD) and elsewhere in business and civic society.
3. Input to policy development and evaluation by Defra and OGD, in areas covered by its remit, by helping, where relevant, to: assess the impacts of different policy options; undertake risk assessment; assess new regulations and deregulation; develop voluntary initiatives.
4. Assisting with technical support for Defra e.g. EU technical groups, Defra/devolved administration research projects, advising on scope for specific projects and research.
5. Contribute to best practice advice and formal guidance e.g. for industry, business, civil society, voluntary organisations, local communities etc. as appropriate within their remit.
6. Help Defra and its delivery partners in responding to emergency situations by providing expert advice and opinion as necessary.

In the course of its work the Committee may publish reports and advice. Publication will normally be through Defra channels. The Committee will also be expected to contribute to departmental reports, publications or guidance.

Code of Practice

1. Introduction

1.1 This code of conduct guides members of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food as to their role and duties as committee members, the extent of their personal liability for the committee's actions and the circumstances in which they should declare interests in the food or pesticides industry.

2. Definitions

2.1 In this code, reference to 'the Ministers' is to the Ministers responsible for pesticide regulation in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department of Health, the Department for Works and Pensions, the Scottish Executive, and the National Assembly for Wales.

2.2 In this code, reference to the 'Chief Executives' is to the Director of the Chemicals Regulations Division and the Chief Executive Food Standards Agency.

2.3 In this code, 'pesticides industry' means:

- i. companies, partnerships or individuals who are involved with the manufacture, sale or supply of pesticide products subject to the Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986 as amended by the Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations 1997 or the Plant Protection Products Regulations 1995;
- ii. trade associations representing companies involved with such products;
- iii. companies, partnerships or individuals who are directly concerned with research, development or marketing of a pesticide product which is being considered by the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF).

2.4 In this code, 'food industry' means:

- i. companies, partnerships or individuals who are involved with the production, manufacture, packaging, sale, advertising, or supply of food or food processes, subject to the Food Safety Act 1990;
- ii. companies, partnership or individuals who are directly concerned with research, development or marketing of any product that is a food contaminant or whose waste products are food contaminants, or where activities are related to the food surveillance programme directed by the committee;
- iii. trade associations representing companies involved with such products.

2.5 In this code 'the secretariat' means the secretariat of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food.

3. Public service values

- 3.1 Members of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food are expected to observe the highest standards of **impartiality, integrity and objectivity** in relation to the advice they provide and the management of the committee.
- 3.2 The Minister for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs is answerable to Parliament for the policies and performance of this body, including the policy framework within which it operates.
- 3.3 The committee should, however, consider itself **accountable** to Parliament and the public for its activities and for the quality of the advice it provides. To this end, the committee should comply fully with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information and act in accordance with Government policy on **openness**. The secretariat will be responsible for the day to day provision of information.

4. Standards in public life

- 4.1 All Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food Members must:-
 - i. follow the **Seven Principles of Public Life** set out by the committee on Standards in Public Life;
 - ii. **comply with this Code**, and ensure they understand their duties, rights and responsibilities, and that they are familiar with the function and role of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food and the relevant statements of Government policy. Any questions may be directed to the secretariat;

- iii. **not misuse information** gained in the course of their work with the committee for personal gain or for political purpose;
- iv. not seek to use the opportunities presented by their membership to promote their private interests or those of connected persons, firms, businesses or other organisations; and
- v. not hold any paid or high-profile unpaid posts in a political party, and not engage in specific political activities on matters directly affecting the work of the committee. When engaging in other political activities, committee members should be conscious of their public role and exercise proper discretion.

5. Role of committee members

5.1 Members of the committee have collective responsibility for the operation of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food. They must:

- i. engage fully in collective consideration of the issues, taking account of the full range of relevant factors, including any guidance issued by or on behalf of the Ministers;
- ii. **agree**, and submit to the Ministers, an annual summary publication; and
- iii. ensure that the committee does not exceed its powers or functions.

5.2 Communications between the committee and the Minister will be through the HSE assessor. Nevertheless, any committee member has the right of access to Ministers on any matter that he or she believes raises important issues relating to his or her duties as a committee member. In such cases the agreement of the rest of the committee should normally be sought.

5.3 Individual committee members can be removed from office by the Senior Reporting Officer and the Chair by the Minister if they fail to perform the duties required of them in line with the standards expected in public office.

6. The role of the Chair

- 6.1 The Chair has particular responsibility for providing effective leadership on the issues above. In addition, the Chair is responsible for:
- i. **ensuring**, with the secretariat, that the committee meets at appropriate intervals, and that the minutes of meetings and any reports to the Senior Reporting Officer and/or the Minister accurately records the decisions taken and, where appropriate, the views of the individual committee members;
 - ii. **representing** the views of the committee to the general public; ensuring that new committee members are briefed on appointment (and their training needs considered); and
 - iii. **providing** an assessment of members' performance, on request, when they are considered for re-appointment to this committee or for appointment to a board or committee of some other public body

7. The role of the secretariat

- 7.1 The secretariat is responsible for:
- i. **ensuring** that members are kept informed of developments in policy and administration which concern them;
 - ii. **ensuring** the dispatch of any necessary documents to members of the committee in good time for meetings;
 - iii. **ensuring** that the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (including responses within the time stated by the HSE Service Standards to public requests for information) is adhered to;
 - iv. **responding** appropriately to complaints, if necessary with reference to the Chair and members of the committee;
 - v. **ensuring** that any follow up action required by the committee is delivered at the appropriate time and in the agreed manner;
 - vi. **ensuring**, with the Chair, that the committee meets at appropriate intervals; and
 - vii. **ensuring** the minutes of meetings and any reports to the Chief Executives and Ministers accurately record the decisions taken and, where appropriate, the views of the individual committee members.

8. Conflicts of interest

- 8.1 To avoid any public concern that commercial interests might affect the advice of the committee, Ministers have decided that the arrangements which govern relationships between committee members and the pesticide and food industry and information on significant and relevant interests should be on public record. Ministers have agreed that less than half of Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food should have food or farming industry interests. The Chair should be among those with no commercial interests.
- 8.2 To avoid any danger of Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food members being influenced, or appearing to be influenced, by their private interests in the exercise of their public duties, all members should declare commercial interests on the basis set out below. This should include such interests of close family members and of people living in the same household.

9. Different types of interest

- 9.1 The following is intended as a guide to the kinds of interests which should be declared. Where a member is uncertain as to whether an interest should be declared they should seek guidance from the secretariat or, where it may concern a particular product which is to be considered at a meeting, from the Chair at that meeting. If a Member has an interest not specified in these notes but which they believe could be regarded as influencing their advice they should declare it. However, neither the member nor the secretariat is under an obligation to search out links between one company and another (for example where a company with which the member is connected has an interest in a food industry company of which the member is not aware and could not reasonably be expected to be aware).

Personal Interests

- 9.2 A personal interest involves payment to the member personally. The main examples are:-
- i. **Consultancies:** any consultancy, directorship, position in or work for the food or farming industry that attracts regular or occasional payments in cash or kind.
 - ii. **Fee-Paid Work:** any work commissioned by the pesticides industry for which the member is paid in cash or kind.
 - iii. **Share holdings:** any shareholding in or other beneficial interest in shares of the food and farming industry. This does not include shareholdings through unit trusts or similar arrangements where the member has no influence on financial management.

Non-Personal Interests

- 9.3 A non-personal interest involves payment which benefits an organisational unit for which a member is responsible, but which is not received by the member personally. The main examples are:-
- i. **fellowships:** the holding of a fellowship endowed by the food industry or other relevant organisation
 - ii. **support by the food/farming industry:** any payment, other support or sponsorship by the food industry/farming industry or relevant organisation which does not convey any pecuniary or material benefit to a member personally but which does benefit his position or department, e.g.
 - a. a grant from a company or relevant organisation for the running of a unit or department for which a member is responsible;
 - b. a grant or fellowship or other payment to sponsor a post or a person in the unit for which a member is responsible. This does not include financial assistance for students;
 - c. the commissioning of research or other work by, or advice from, staff who work in a unit for which a member is responsible.

Members are under no obligation to seek out information about work done by their organisation for or on behalf of the food/farming industry if they would not normally expect to be informed. Where members are responsible for organisations which receive funds from a very large number of companies involved in the food industry, the secretariat can agree with them a summary of non-personal interests rather than draw up a long list of companies.

- iii. **Trusteeships:** any investment in the food industry held by a charity for which a member is a trustee.

10. Declaration of interests to the secretariat

10.1 On appointment, members of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food should inform the secretariat in writing of their current personal and non-personal interests. Only the name of the company and the nature of the interest is required; the amount involved need not be disclosed to the secretariat. An interest is current if the member has an on-going financial involvement with the food/farming industry, e.g. if they hold shares in a food company, if they have a consultancy contract with a relevant pressure group, or if they are in the process of carrying out work for the food industry. Members should inform the secretariat immediately of any change in their personal interests. They will also be asked to complete a declaration form once a year setting out all changes in personal and non-personal interests.

11. Special position of the chair

11.1 It is not appropriate for the Chair of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food to have any current interests in the food/farming industry.

12. Declaration of interests at meetings and participation by members

12.1 Members are required to declare to the Chair any direct interest in matters under discussion at each meeting.

13. Record of interests

13.1 A record is kept by the secretariat of the names of members who have declared interests to the secretariat on appointment, as the interest first arises or through the annual declaration, and the nature of the interest. Information about interests declared by members to the secretariat will be available for scrutiny on the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food website and available to the public on request.

14. Personal liability of committee members

14.1 Legal proceedings by a third party against individual members of advisory bodies are very exceptional. The Government has indicated that an individual committee member who has acted honestly and in good faith will not have to meet out of his or her own personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in the execution or purported execution of their committee function, save where the person has acted recklessly.

14.2 Members who need further advice should consult the secretariat.

ANNEX 2

Members

Members (as of 31 December 2021) and declarations of interest.

Chair

Ann Davison



Ann began her career at Which? and has worked in consumer affairs and public service roles for most of her career, running consumer organisations and networks such as Foodaware: the Consumers' Food Group. She won the UK Woman of Europe 2000 Award for outstanding voluntary service.

Ann has served as a consumer representative on a number of government committees including the Defra Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards, the Adult Learning Committee of the Learning and Skills Council, and the Food Standards Agency's Advisory Committee on Animal Feeding Stuffs.

For nearly six years, she was Defra's consumer adviser and ran its consumer representatives' group. Ann co-founded the Fairtrade Foundation and chaired its Certification Committee for 11 years.

Ann also chaired the World Development Movement, established the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue and chaired its Trade Committee. She served two terms as President of External Relations on the EU Economic and Social Committee.

Ann has been a trustee of the National Council of Women, a member of the European Committee of the International Council of Women and a representative of the Commonwealth Women's Network. She volunteers in the world development charity sector, providing insight advice and research.

No interests declared.

Members

Professor Jonathan Blackman



Jonathan is a graduate of Wye College, University of London and studied for a DPhil at the University of Sussex.

He has worked as an agronomist and technical manager in the horticultural industry for 25 years, and before that worked as a Soil Scientist and Research Scientist for ADAS. He holds the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy and his work involves advising growers of fruit, hops and ornamental crops and providing technical support to fellow horticultural agronomists working for H L Hutchinson Ltd.

In addition to growers, he has provided consultancy services to packers and industry bodies such as the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board and the British Hop Association. He also sits on the board of several industry committees. He represents his employer on the Agricultural Industry Confederation's commercial horticulture group.

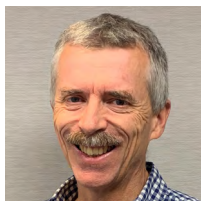
Personal interest

- Marks and Spencer shareholding

Current non-personal interests

- H L Hutchinson Ltd – Technical Manager providing agronomic consultancy to growers and horticultural industry. Consultancy includes sales of crop protection products, fertilisers and other inputs. Aspects of the role require regular contact with manufacturers and industry experts.
- Marden Fruit Show Society – Trustee and Member of the General Committee.
- Hereford Hop Discussion Group – Secretary and Treasurer.
- British Independent Fruit Growers Association – Associate Member.
- Institute of Brewing and Distilling – Member.
- British Hop Association – Consultancy on crop protection issues.
- Wye Fruit Limited – Consultancy on crop protection issues.

Ian Finlayson



Ian has a BSc Hons in Horticulture from Bath University. He was involved in the creation of Good Agricultural Practice standards for the Red Tractor Scheme and the international Global GAP standard during his 16 years as Technical Manager at Sainsbury's Supermarkets.

Ian was Chair of the Fairtrade Standards Committee, where his passion for social justice and working to relieve poverty found an outlet. His other passion of sustainability was served as Director of Footprints4Food which provided cost-efficient carbon foot printing of agricultural products with the aim of reducing their impact on the environment.

He is Managing Director of Practical Solutions International which specialises in helping growers and suppliers work effectively with retailers in Europe. This has allowed him to gain extensive experience in Africa working with both small farmers and large export companies.

Ian brings his experience from times as Technical Director for World Flowers, Wealmoor, Produce World and No1 Living. He is an expert in a range of food and cut flower supply chains. He has most recently been involved in a project funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, supporting growers to switch from air to sea freight of produce from Kenya.

Personal interests

- Practical Solutions International Limited – Director, and consultancy in food safety, sustainability and ethical production. Contracts include: work with agrochemical company collating industry based prohibited lists, running training courses for the food industry and technical consultancy.

Current non-personal interests

- Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) – Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee developing and monitoring the LEAF marque standard.

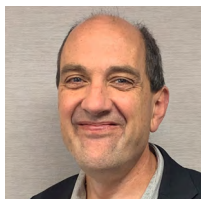
Dr Gill Hart



Gill is a PhD Biochemist with over thirty years' experience in the development, validation and evaluation of diagnostic tests and testing services. Gill started her career as Senior Biochemist at the Hammersmith Hospital, London. She subsequently worked for research and development companies responsible for the development and validation of unique diagnostic tests for both hospital and consumer use. In 1999 Gill set up her own consultancy to service the needs of the clinical diagnostics industry, and her work included the design and development of fertility tests for consumer (home) use. Gill joined leading consumer health and wellness company YorkTest Laboratories in 2005 and, as Scientific Director, has applied her scientific and regulatory knowledge to all YorkTest services. Gill has been instrumental in developing effective consumer-led communications within this industry through a variety of different media, focusing on the transcription of scientific information to make it more accessible and comprehensible to the general public.

No interests declared.

John Points



John is an independent consultant, advising food retailers and producers on chemical and authenticity risk management, analytical testing, and interpretation of results. He also works on capacity-building projects for low and middle income countries who need to regulate and test food safety.

His previous career has been with Sainsbury's and at LGC – one of the UK's national reference laboratories – where he led the teams responsible for food, residues, consumer safety and workplace drugs testing. At Sainsbury's, his role included management of residue monitoring programmes and follow-up of results within the own-brand supply chain.

He is an active member of the Institute of Food Science and Technology's Scientific Committee, the Society of Chemical Industry's Food Interest Group, and the Royal Society of Chemistry's Food Group.

Personal interests

- John Points Consulting Limited:
 - Consultancy to the food industry, risk assessment and appropriate controls, analytical testing and incident investigation which includes those for pesticide residues.
 - Consultancy to laboratories in areas of: method validation accreditation, audit, logistics and capacity-building, including for pesticide residues.
 - The European Commission: Consultancy for the training and capacity for third countries in residue analysis.
 - Consultancy to the food industry within certification bodies such as site audit preparation.
- LGC Limited – Pension

Debbie Winstanley



Debbie holds a BSc Hons in Agriculture from the University of Wales and is a Governor of Harper Adams Agricultural University. Debbie is a Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Society.

Debbie sits on the steering group of the Allerton Project, a charity which champions biodiversity and good farming practice in commercial agriculture. Debbie is a member of the steering group of the Cambridge University Potato Growers Association, a charity that supports and guides the work of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany's Cambridge University Farm.

Debbie's extensive professional experience includes being a commercial farm agronomist for 20 years before working on potato agronomy at Cambridge University Farm. She has worked for Co-op Retail with fresh produce suppliers. She also worked for Sainsbury's as a Product Technologist for potatoes and vegetables, and then the Company Agronomist, notably working on pesticide residue reduction. Most recently Debbie's worked as UK Agronomist for PepsiCo where she continues to work part-time on research and development. Debbie provides agronomic support for a large farming business and technical support work for a small fertiliser supply business.

Personal interests

- Consultancy work for PepsiCo – Agronomist specialising in research in growing potatoes within the agro discovery team.
- Sulphate Solutions LLP – Partner providing technical support in the liquid fertiliser business.
- Strawsons Ltd – Structural agronomy support within potato growing and storage work.
- Harper Adams Agricultural University – A Governor.

Current non-personal interests

- JSH Retirements Benefit Scheme – a pension fund holding properties.
- Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Society.

The Committee regularly reviews membership to ensure it has the right balance of expertise to meet the challenges it faces.

ANNEX 3

Fees and reimbursement

Members of PRiF are not salaried staff but do receive a fee for attendance at meetings. They are not paid if they do not attend meetings.

Chair's fees

Attendance fee £182

Members' fees

Attendance fee £146

The Chair and Members also receive reimbursement of reasonable actual travel and subsistence when attending meetings.

In 2021, the cost of members' fees related to committee work and two recruitment campaigns was £4,500. This is a reduction in cost when compared to previous years which reflects the reduced expenses associated with virtual meetings.

PRiF is assisted in the committee by the following officials:

- Mr Duncan Williams – Defra
- Mr Sam Phillips – Defra
- Dr Sadat Nawaz – National Reference Laboratory
- Ms Katie Viezens – Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture, representing Scottish Government
- Dr Dermot Faulkner – Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, representing Northern Irish Government
- Dr Rebecca Scrivens – HSE
- Ms Helen Kyle – HSE
- Ms Helena Cooke – HSE

PRiF secretariat

Secretary – Rachel Merrick

Secretariat Member – Ethan Clabby

PRiF secretariat

Ground floor

Mallard House, Kings Pool

York, YO1 7PX

Email: prif@hse.gov.uk

ANNEX 4

Analytical sub-group

The analytical sub-group reviews the results of analysis by the laboratories before they are sent to HSE, to ensure their reliability. The group provide regular updates on issues of interest to PRiF at each of their meetings.

Most of the members of the group are from laboratories. The group members during 2021 were:

- Helen Kyle – HSE (Chair)
- Dr Sadat Nawaz – National Reference Laboratory Representative
- Helen Barker – Fera Science Ltd
- Mark Kearney – Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute
- Kirsty Reid – Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
- Laura Melton – Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture
- Dr Emma Ingram – HSE
- Helena Cooke – HSE

Communications sub-group

PRiF's communications sub-group reviews all communications that PRiF produces.

Most of the Members are from the committee itself. The group Members during 2021 were:

- John Points – PRiF Member (Chair)
- Ann Davison – PRiF Chair
- Dr Gill Hart – PRiF Member
- Debbie Winstanley – PRiF Member
- Helena Cooke – HSE

