

The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP)

Full Minutes of the meeting of the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) held 18 July 2023

The meeting was held as a virtual meeting.

Those present:

Chair:

Prof W Cushley

Members:

Mr J Clarke; Dr J Garratt; Mr M Glynn; Dr C Harris; Dr I Katsiadaki; Dr R Mann; Prof T Lock; Dr M Rose; Mr P Stephenson; Prof D Spurgeon; Prof M Whelan and Prof M Wright

Assessors:

Dr S Jess (DAERA), Ms C McCartney-Collard (FSA) and Ms G Reay (Scottish Government)

Advisors:

Mr A Dixon (HSE); Mr D Flynn (HSE); Ms H Nakeeb (UKHSA); Dr J Newman (Environment Agency); Ms A Porter (Defra) and M Wade (HSE)

Others:

Ms S Goodchild (HSE); Mr N Graham (HSE); Ms S Mason (HSE); Mr P Gibbins (HSE)

Apologies:

Prof R Blackshaw; Prof M Eddleston; Mr B Macdonald (Welsh Government) ; Mr B Maycock (FSA); Dr S Qassim (Natural England); Dr C Snaith (HSE) and Mr D Williams (Defra)

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 Three Members identified potential conflicts of interest. One Member declared a personal, specific interest and chose to withdraw from discussion of that item. The other Members declared non-personal, non-specific conflicts and it was decided they could remain and participate in discussion on the relevant agenda item.

Agenda Item 2: Full Minutes of the previous meeting [ECP 1 (60/2023)]

2.1 Members noted the Full Minutes of the April 2023 meeting had been agreed previously via correspondence.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising and Forward Business Plan [ECP 2 (60/2023)]

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 In consideration of further data Members have noted an amendment to ECP advice to government on use of 'Asulox' on grassland and forest to control bracken' which was published as an annex to the April 2023 minutes. Paragraph 5, point 2 should read:

Data have been collected that show residues of asulam are being detected in some water courses. The concentrations were all well below the RAC of 14.6 ug/L. However, most sampling points are not appropriate for evaluating local aquatic exposure because they appear to coincide with drinking water abstraction points which usually have large catchments with mixed land uses and consequently high dilution. In order to judge the effectiveness of the current mitigation (90 m buffer zone), data would need to be obtained from locations close to where treatment has taken place.

Agenda Item 4: Independent Scientific Advice: Fluoxapiprolin [ECP 3 (60/2023)]

4.1 Fluoxapiprolin was first considered by the Committee in April 2023. HSE identified several areas that would require advice, and the 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 fluoxapiprolin. Members formally approved the draft note as a true representation of the advice they provided, subject to minor amendments. The advice note will be submitted to HSE.

Agenda Item 5: Stewardship update

5.1 HSE updated the Committee on the existing stewardship programmes, noting a group of products containing the active substance aminopyralid have active stewardship arrangements in place.

5.2 Members noted the full stewardship data for products containing aminopyralid would be made available later in the year, but that the current reporting remains at a low level in line with previous years.

Agenda Item 6: Date of next meeting

6.1 12 September 2023 – To be held as a hybrid meeting.

Agenda Item 7: Any other business

7.1 Guidance document update

7.1.1 HSE noted since the last annual update a number of technical guidance documents have been adopted by the EU and several more are noted in the preliminary working document on the proposed priority list for the development and updates of guidance.

7.1.2 Members queried the timeline for possible adoption of any EU guidance within the GB regime. HSE noted the need to assess the impact and usefulness of any guidance prior to adoption meant there would need to be adequate time to conduct a review process.

7.2 Chair's Report

7.2.1 The Chair noted the Committee was currently interviewing applicants for a number of posts, including for a new Chair and appointments to the newly-established biopesticide cloud.

7.2.2 The Secretariat confirmed the intention to have any newly-appointed Members in post for the September meeting.

**Ethan Clabby
ECP Secretariat
September 2023**