

The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP)

Full minutes of the meeting of the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) held 22 July 2025

Those present

Chair

Mr J Clarke

Members

Professor M Eddleston; Dr J Garratt; Mr M Glynn; Dr C Harris; Dr C Hazlerigg; Dr I Katsiadaki; Dr R Mann; Dr A Rowbotham; Prof D Spurgeon; Dr C Scudamore; Mr P Stephenson; Professor M Whelan and Professor M Wright

Assessors

Ms K Chukwubike (UK Health Security Agency, UKHSA); Ms A Faulkner (Health and Safety Executive, HSE); Ms L Fielding (Welsh Government) and Ms G Reay (Scottish Government)

Advisors

Mr A Dixon (HSE); Mr J Dale (HSE); Mr G Stark; Dr M Penrose (HSE); Mr B Maycock (FSA); Ms M Reed (HSE); Mr N Graham (HSE); Mr G Shaw (Natural England); Ms A Roper (Environment Agency) and Ms M Wade (HSE)

Others

Mr D Kenna (Defra); Ms H Busby (Defra); Mr A Wilder (HSE); Mr D Williams (Defra); Ms L Whitenburgh (Defra) and Mr W Broad (Defra)

Apologies

Dr M Rose; Professor J Coulson; Mr A Murchie (representing the Northern Irish Government); Mr J Newman (Environment Agency); Dr A Porter (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 or not be involved in any discussions and decision-making, unless invited to do so.

Agenda item 2: Full minutes of the previous meeting [ECP1 72/2025]

2.1 Members agreed the full minutes of the November 2024 meeting.

Agenda item 3: Matters arising and forward business plan [ECP 2 72/2025]

3.1 The secretariat provided an update on matters arising from previous meetings and invited members to suggest any additions or amendments to the forward business plan which would be incorporated before the next meeting.

Agenda item 4: National Action Plan and Pesticide Load Indicator

4.1 Defra presented an update on the National Action Plan which was published earlier this year. Defra also discussed with the members the potential changes to the relationship with the European Union. Defra confirmed the current regulatory system will stay in place and the UK will continue to deliver the National Action Plan until a new framework has been agreed with the European Union.

4.2 The committee received an update and a presentation from Defra regarding the relevance of the Pesticide Load Indicator as documented in the National Action Plan. The presentation will be circulated to the members.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 5: Glyphosate update [ECP 3 72/2025]

5.1 HSE provided a brief update on the Glyphosate renewal assessment. HSE will seek advice from members on Glyphosate at the September ECP meeting to assist government in outlining a clearer GB position and prepare to submit the final assessment report.

5.2 Members discussed how they will address any conflicts of interest for Glyphosate. It was noted that due to the length of time the active has been approved, it was likely most members will have had been involved with some work related to it. The chair asked all members to collate their interests in Glyphosate and declare them to the secretariat ahead of the September meeting so any additional steps can be considered.

Action: Members

Agenda item 6: Update on drones

6.1 The Committee received an update on work associated with the application of pesticides using drones and other new technologies. Members discussed:

- The challenges and opportunities associated with the introduction of new technologies and improvements to existing technologies;
- Potential development of risk assessment processes as a result of the OECD Working Party for Pesticides Drone Subgroup, the European Precision Application Task Force and digital labelling initiatives.
- Progress in the UK towards authorisation of commercial-scale use of pesticide application by drone.

Agenda item 7: Revision of guidance on emergency authorisations [ECP 6 72/2025]

7.1 Defra gave a brief update on the revision of the guidance on emergency authorisations. Defra stated one of the policy proposals of this government was to take a further look at the emergency authorisation guidance to check its effectiveness. Defra confirmed they have not found any fundamental issues with the guidance and it stands up to scrutiny. Defra invited members to send any comments on the revised guidance by the end of July.

Agenda item 8: Update from Other Government Departments

8.1 The majority of other Government Departments did not have any specific update and confirmed they remain focused on working closely with each other across various issues.

8.2 Welsh Government

8.2.1 The Welsh Government confirmed the [Sustainable Farming Scheme](#) has been published.

8.3 Department for Health and Social Care (UKHSA)

8.3.1 UKHSA are developing a website with the aim to provide clear information to the general public on the hazards of chemicals. They confirmed that they will not duplicate information on plant protection products and will instead signpost to information already available on HSE website.

8.3.2 UKHSA's Human Biomonitoring team have a strong interest in gathering information on the UK population's pesticide exposure.

8.3.3 The Committee On Carcinogenicity published a new guidance statement on improving the cancer risk assessment following exposure to chemicals.

Agenda item 9:

9.1 Date of next meeting: 9 September 2025

Agenda item 10:

10.1 2024/25 Emergency Authorisations [ECP 4 (72/2025)]

10.1.1 HSE presented the details of all emergency authorisation applications received by HSE in 2024/25. This is provided as an annual update for the committee's information.

10.2 Chair's report

10.2.1 The Chair noted that he, Dr C Harris, Dr C Scudamore and Mr M Glynn had finalised the ECP's audit of the applications undertaken by HSE in 2024/25. He thanked all those involved for their support and work to help facilitate this.

**Lesley Debenham
ECP Secretariat
September 2025**