

The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP)

Full minutes of the meeting of the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) held 24 February 2026

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; Dr C Scudamore; Prof D Spurgeon; Mr P Stephenson; Ms C Wake (co-opted); Professor M Whelan and Professor M Wright

Assessors

Ms K Chukwubike (UK Health Security Agency, UKHSA); Ms A Faulkner (HSE); Ms S Hugo (Defra); Mr B MacDonald (Welsh Government); Ms C McCartney-Collard (FSA); Mr A Murchie (Northern Ireland Government) and Ms G Reay (Scottish Government);

Advisors

Mr J Cudmore(HSE); Mr A Dixon (HSE); Mr J Hingston (HSE); Mr B Maycock (FSA); Mr J Newman (Environment Agency); Dr M Penrose (HSE); Dr M Reed (HSE); Ms A Roper (Environment Agency); Mr G Shaw (Natural England); Mr G Stark (HSE); Ms S Tessier (HSE) and Ms M Wade (HSE)

Others

Ms H Bennett (HSE); Mr S Bradley (HSE); Ms J Cairns (HSE); Ms S Godson (HSE); Ms S Jahan (HSE); Mr G Kenney (HSE) and Ms S Mawer (HSE)

Apologies

Professor J Coulson; Mr M Rose; Mr J Dale (HSE)

Agenda item1: 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.

1.2 Two members declared conflicts of interest for ADF16 and recused themselves from this section of the ECP meeting. To cover this gap in expertise, ECP co-opted a residues expert.

Agenda item 2: Full Minutes of the November 2025 ECP meeting

2.1 Members agreed the full minutes of the November 2025 meeting.

Agenda item 3: Matters arising and forward business plan

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: Review of active substance: ADF 16

4.1 HSE introduced the item, Flumetylsulfurim is a new active substance. The representative product, ADF-16 250 OD, is a new fungicidal oil dispersion method to treat foliar crops.

4.2 HSE had identified several potential areas that would require advice, and Committee Members could explore any aspects of the risk assessment and underlying guidance they considered to be of interest. The Committee held preliminary discussions on the issues identified by HSE and began to formulate their advice.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 5: Independent Scientific Advice: Inpyrfluxam

5.1 Inpyrfluxam was first considered by the Committee in November 2025. 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.

5.2 The Secretariat introduced a working draft of the Independent Scientific Advice for Inpyrfluxam. Members formally approved the draft note as a true representation of the advice they provided, the secretariat will formalise the draft note and submit to HSE.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 6: Overview of the pesticide residues in food monitoring programme

6.1 HSE presented an overview of the pesticide residues in food monitoring programme, including the legislation underpinning it, how the programme is delivered and the areas where the committee is likely to be asked for advice.

6.2 The Chair thanked HSE for the presentation and noted that the slides would be circulated to members.

6.3 Members discussed the content further, and questioned

- Whether all samples are assessed for compliance to the MRL or just for human health. HSE confirmed this was the case, the origin of every sample is known, allowing for appropriate follow-up. Within the UK, it is also possible to request access to farm records, weather information and other relevant data, ensuring strong consumer protection.
- Members also asked whether HSE takes PAN recommendations into account. HSE explained that they are aware of PAN's work, and such recommendations are considered when planning future years monitoring programmes. The primary focus remains risk assessment and ensuring consumer safety.
- The inclusion of products of animal origin, such as milk, in the programme, noting that very few issues are ever identified and questioning whether resources might be better focused elsewhere. HSE acknowledged that detections in these products are rare but explained that, because they are widely consumed and particularly important in the diets of young children, their inclusion remains necessary.
- How sampling locations are chosen, particularly for samples taken at ports. HSE explained that Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) inspectors carry out sampling at ports and processing plants. The programme is designed so that APHA inspectors focus on commodities that are typically imported, and these items are specifically allocated to them for sampling. The priority is to sample products that will be directly consumed, rather than those destined for further processing.
- The measurement of uncertainty and the challenges around multiple pesticide residues appearing in a single sample. HSE stated that cumulative assessments require complex laboratory work, and while progress is being made, this level of analysis is not yet routinely available.
- Whether there were plans to expand the programme, for example, to include PFAS. HSE explained that as analytical technologies continue to advance, the programme may be better placed in the future to test for such emerging contaminants.
- Whether analytical suites are routinely updated to include new actives that are approved. HSE confirmed this is dependent on the active and the method of

analysis, however all new actives are considered and where possible included in the following years programme.

Agenda item 7: Update from other government departments

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

7.2 Defra reported that the majority of work is currently focused on SPS. They thanked committee members for their contributions to work recently carried out on a foresight study and noted that they hope to share the findings with the committee at the May meeting.

7.3 The Welsh Government reported that, like Defra, it is heavily engaged with SPS. They reminded the committee that the devolved governments of Wales and Scotland will be participating in elections on 7 May 2026, and that all communications activity must continue to follow Government Communication Service guidance.

7.4 The Northern Ireland government reported that they are currently transitioning to a new system requiring farmers to keep electronic records of pesticide use. They are still determining how farmers will be expected to maintain and submit these records.

Agenda item 8: Date of next meeting: 12 May 2026:

8.1 The meeting is to be in person and hybrid. The secretariat will be in touch with members to arrange accommodation.

Agenda item 9: Any Other Business:

9.1 The secretariat confirmed the 1st draft of the ECP Annual Report 2025 is available for comments, with a deadline of 13 March 2026.

9.2 The secretariat informed members that, following the recent email, it is now a requirement for all members to set up a Public Appointments account.

9.3 The secretariat informed members that, under GDPR requirements, members will need to confirm whether they are happy for their email addresses to be included in group communications. An email will be sent shortly with further instructions.

Action: Secretariat

9.4 Chairs Report

- **Co-opting arrangements** – Further to the committee’s consideration of areas where additional subject-matter expertise may be required, the chair advised that HSE maintains a formal guide for the recruitment of experts to the ECP. This guide sets out the assessment criteria to be applied and must be followed in full accordance with Public Appointments requirements. Members are requested to identify any subject areas in which current expertise may be insufficient.

Action: Members

- **ECP Annual audit** – The chair confirmed that the 11 May 2026 has been pencilled in for the ECP annual audit. If members would like to volunteer to assist, please let the secretariat know before 13 March 2026.

Lesley Debehnam
ECP Secretariat
May 2026