

The UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP)

Full minutes of the meeting of the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) held 12 May 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; Dr M Rose and Professor M Wright

Assessors

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

Advisors

Mr A Dixon (HSE); Mr B Maycock (FSA); Ms A Porter (Defra); Mr J Newman (Environment Agency); Mr J Dale (HSE); Dr M Penrose (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 S Godson (HSE); Ms S Jahan (HSE); Mr G Kenney (HSE) and Mr C Cheung-Hinchliffe (HSE)

Apologies

Professor M Whelan; Professor J Coulson; Ms S Hugo (Defra)

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 flumetylsulforim (ADF16). As a result they recused themselves from this part of this ECP meeting.

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

- 2.1 Members agreed the full minutes of the February 2026 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.

Agenda item 4: Independent Scientific Advice: flumetylsulforim (ADF 16)

- 4.1 Flumetylsulforim (ADF 16) was first considered by the Committee in February 2026. HSE identified 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 flumetylsulforim. 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.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 5: New technologies and innovation

- 5.1 HSE delivered a presentation on work associated with the application of pesticides using drones. HSE will provide a selection of the presentation for ECP members. Members discussed:

- The challenges and opportunities associated with the application of pesticides using drones.
- 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 6: Date of next meeting: 14 July 2026

6.1 This will be held as a hybrid meeting.

Agenda item 7: Any Other Business

7.1 2025/26 Emergency authorisations

7.1.1 HSE presented the details of all emergency authorisation applications received by HSE in 2025/26. This is provided as an annual update for the committee's information.

7.1.2 Members suggested that, in future, an additional column could be included to indicate how many times a product has been approved, along with details of any steps taken to explore alternative methods.

Action: HSE

7.2 Pesticide Usage Survey Reports 2024

7.2.1 Members noted that the [Arable crops in the UK](#), [Orchards in the UK](#), [Soft Fruit in the UK](#) and [Potato stores in the UK](#) pesticide usage surveys had been published and drawn to the attention of the committee for information.

7.3 Chairs Report

7.3.1 The chair notes that he and Dr C Harris would be undertaking the ECP's audit of the applications undertaken by HSE in 2025/26 and would report the outcome at the next ECP meeting.

Action: Chair

7.3.2 The chair informed the committee that he would be attending the final meeting of the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) to ensure that any outstanding issues to the committee, could be understood and followed up by the ECP.

**Lesley Debenham
ECP Secretariat
July 2026**