Full minutes of the meeting of the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides (ECP) held 14 July 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; Professor D Spurgeon; Mr P Stephenson; Dr M Rose; Professor J Coulson; Professor M Whelan and Professor M Wright

Assessors

Mr B MacDonald (Welsh Government); Ms A Porter (Defra) and Ms D Kessel (Scottish Government);

Advisors

Mr J Dale (HSE); Mr A Dixon (HSE); Ms S Frow (HSE); Mr J Hingston (HSE); Mr B Maycock (FSA); Ms H Nakeeb (UK Health Security Agency, UKHSA); Mr J Newman (Environment Agency); Mr R Smith (HSE); Ms S Tessier (HSE) and Ms M Wade (HSE)

Others

Mr A Anderson (HSE); Ms G Aydin (HSE); Mr D Burnett (HSE); Mr J Farquhar (HSE); Ms L Gorman (HSE); Ms S Jahan (HSE); Mr G Kenney (HSE) and Ms S Mawer (HSE)

Apologies

Ms G Reay (Scottish Government)

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 May 2026 ECP meeting

2.1 Members agreed the full minutes of the May 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.

3.2 The chair reported on his attendance at the final PRiF meeting. No specific issues were identified that need to be incorporated into ECP work at this stage. However, some follow-up work is required to review action points, improve understanding of processes, and consider whether any changes are needed to the ECP audit approach for HSE casework. It was agreed the Secretariat and any relevant colleagues would meet separately to agree a future approach for addressing these.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 4: Review of active substance: SALC-1300

4.1 HSE introduced the item, SALC-1300 is a new active substance. The representative product, NEU-I1303 74C, is a soluble concentrate formulation.

4.2 HSE 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: Review of active substance: Methyl Anthranilate

5.1 HSE introduced the item, Methyl anthranilate is a new active substance. The representative product, K1085-04 is a flowable concentrate for seed treatment formulation.

5.2 HSE 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 6: Pesticide Foresight Study update

6.1 The Committee received a presentation by Defra on a foresight study undertaken by the Defra pesticides team approximately one year ago. The study involved more than 40 experts, who were asked to identify and prioritise novel and emerging issues likely to have an impact on the control of pests, diseases and weeds in the UK over the next 5 to 30 years.

6.2 A total of 72 issues were identified, with the findings being put into five themes: climate change and invasive species; technological innovation and precision tools; biopesticides and biological control; resistance and resilience; and farming systems and land management.

6.3 The outputs from the study have already been used to support funding bids and PhD proposals. The Committee was invited to provide views on the implications of the findings, including whether any themes were of particular significance for future UK crop protection and whether any important issues had been overlooked.

6.4 Members welcomed the study and offered suggestions for future work. It was noted that a key gap was consideration of how to influence grower behaviour and decision-making, which would be critical to the successful adoption of future crop protection approaches.

6.5 The potential use of artificial intelligence to support future horizon-scanning and prioritisation exercises was suggested, members noting that appropriate tools and expert oversight would be required. Members also emphasised the value of ongoing monitoring and surveillance, including engagement with organisations such as the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), to help identify emerging issues at an early stage.

6.6 Members further noted that future work could benefit from greater consideration of how crop choices and farming systems may change under

different climate scenarios. Members were invited to submit any additional written comments within two weeks to support the development of next steps.

Agenda item 7: Date of next meeting: 29 September 2026

7.1 This meeting will be held as a virtual meeting. The secretariat confirmed it will confirm the 2027 meeting dates following the meeting.

Action: Secretariat

Agenda item 8: Any other business

8.1 The Scottish government confirmed that the SRUC Glyphosate review has been published for members information.

8.2 Chairs Report

8.2.1 The chair confirmed an audit took place in May 2026. The chair thanked members, secretariat and HSE for contributing to the successful audit. There were a few recommendations made but overall, the chair confirmed there was a robust process in place that is appropriate for what is required.

8.2.2 The chair also confirmed that he understood there was no update on the progress of the SPS agreement.

Lesley Debenham
ECP Secretariat
July 2026