



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
From the Secretary of State for Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T 03459 335577
defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Rt Hon George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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Des George

Thank you for your email of 15 September on behalf of your constituents about neonicotinoids.

Pesticide active substances are assessed at EU level and are only approved if they are demonstrated to meet safety requirements for the protection of people and the environment. The UK is responsible for authorising products containing approved active substances. We will not authorise pesticides that carry unacceptable risks to pollinators. There are currently EU-wide restrictions on using three neonicotinoids on a range of mostly flowering crops, including oilseed rape and spring cereals.

The government keeps the developing evidence on neonicotinoids under review, advised by the UK Expert Committee on Pesticides. On the basis of current available evidence, we support these existing restrictions. The European Commission issued a new proposal in March to extend the restrictions to most other uses of neonicotinoids, including sugar beet and winter cereals. A decision will be made following a vote by Member States. The government is carefully considering its position on the proposal in the light of all the scientific evidence.

Thank you again for your email.

With every good wish,

*Yours,
Michael*

Michael Gove