

Campaign Against Illegal Poisoning (CAIP) Stakeholder Meeting

7th May 2009

14:30-17:00hrs

Room 202, Mallard House, Kings Pool, York

Attendees

Dave Bench - Director of Policy, CRD¹ - Chair
Alan Buckle - Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)
Elaine Close - PREP² Branch, CRD
Hugh Dignon - Scottish Executive
Adrian Dixon - PEP³ Branch, CRD
Dorothy Fairburn - Country Land & Business Association (CLA)
Patrick Goldsworthy - Goldsworthy Associates
Edward Heywood - PEP Branch, CRD
Kevin Jaundrell - National Gamekeepers Organisation (NGO)
Peter Karner - Natural England
Jeff Knott - The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Catherine Murdoch - Scottish executive
Grant Stark - PEP Branch, CRD
Mike Swan - Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT)
Tracey Ware - PEP Branch, CRD
Chris Wild - NGO
Carol Willey - **dmr** kynetec

Apologies:

Tom Blades - British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)
Colin Booty - RSPCA
Tom Briggs - Defra press office
Guy Shorrocks - RSPB
Colin Strong - HSE Science & Technology group
Tammy Wilson - Defra press office
Dave Wootton - Defra WSC1 - European and UK Species Policy

¹ Chemicals Regulation Directorate

² Pesticides Registration & Enforcement Policy

³ Pesticides Environment Policy

Introduction, apologies and minutes/matters arising from previous meeting (1 May 2008) (CRD):

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Dave welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was a round table introduction.

1.2 Minutes of previous meeting on 1st May 2008

1.2.1 None

1.3 Matters arising

1.3.1 Action Point 3.6: 'Possession of Pesticides Order under NERC' - Defra is still to progress this (see note in any other business). Dave agreed that CRD would seek further clarification of Defra's intentions.

ACTION: Tracey

1.3.2 Action Point 3.11: Plant Health message 'if in doubt leave it out' - CRD is investigating. It was agreed that Adrian would see if there were any details available on 'if in doubt...'. Tracey to see if it is practicable, and if it is aligned with what CAIP does.

ACTION: CRD by end of May

1.3.3 Action Point 12.1: Feedback on quarterly reports – No comments were received.

1.3.4 Action Point 12.4: Target events/literature - suggestions made included: Veterinary Times; HSE's Agriculture e-bulletin; NGO's 'Keeping the Balance' magazine; BASIS publication 'the Responsible Sale of Rodenticides'; International Pest Control. It was agreed that any more suggestions made would be forwarded to Patrick and/or Tracey.

ACTION: All

1.3.5 It was agreed that Tracey would circulate her summary action sheet with deadlines to group members.

ACTION: Tracey

2. Review of first year of campaign and outline for next two years (Goldsworthy Associates Consortium)

2.1 Review of first year

Patrick introduced this item explaining that the intention was to create a comprehensive source of information/advice and effective mechanisms for ensuring this was taken up by relevant stakeholders.

- CAIP has a new identity launched by Lord Rooker at Game Fair.
- Three market research studies have been completed; two have been published so far.
- New website established with an e-newsletter.
- Three new three-section pop-up displays have been produced.
- A business card with core CAIP details has been printed to support the display.
- Published artwork for a “keepers” poster encouraging respect for legal pest control and incident reporting.

2.2 Outline for next two years

- CAIP booklet – best practice guide about to be launched.
- CAIP training course (with 8 NRoSO CPD points) for farmers and keepers has been piloted to start this autumn.
- Countryside users market research to be published.
- Countryside users leaflet to be developed.
- County shows and events to attend.
- 10 standalone pop-up displays to be ordered.

2.2.1 Patrick noted that website would continue to develop. He offered to add relevant information as necessary - noting the need to reflect differing practices/priorities in Scotland in particular. Organisations to let Patrick know.

ACTION: All

2.2.2 It was agreed that all organisations would let Patrick and/or CRD know how many copies of the booklet they would like printing.

ACTION: All

Hugh suggested that there might be merit in the Scottish Government campaign and the CAIP becoming more closely aligned. Dave noted the potential complicating factor of the devolution settlement but agreed that CRD and the Scottish Government should discuss with a view to taking this forward.

ACTION: Adrian and Hugh

3. Market Research Feedback (dmr kynetec)

Three studies were conducted in the summer of 2008.

3.1 Rodenticide and Slug Pellet Responsible Use Survey

The first two were qualitative and quantitative studies of farmers, gamekeepers and pest control operatives and published in early 2009. They showed:

- High awareness of need for responsible pesticide use to protect environment.

- Need to improve quality of advice on rodenticide use and develop single sources of advice.
- Confusion amongst **farmers** on legal methods of control for crows and magpies.
- There was the potential to improve practice through the use of training schemes.

In discussion of this survey it was noted that many of the findings had been picked up and addressed in the developing programme. Nevertheless, it was agreed that it would be helpful for group members to formally review the findings and comment on the way forward. CRD will circulate a paper for discussion to group members.

ACTION: Tracey within 2 months

3.2 Countryside Users Survey

The third was a quantitative study of countryside users (those that spend more than three hours a week in the countryside, but excluding farmers and gamekeepers etc) was due to be towards the end of May. It highlights that:

- Dead wildlife is seen but awareness of/ability to recognize potential poisoning cases was low.
- Awareness of legal methods of rat control was matched by understanding of fox, crow and magpie control.
- There was little awareness of WIIS. The RSPCA/RSPB and police were the main organisations to whom countryside users would report suspicious deaths (though it was noted that they would channel enquiries to WIIS and in Scotland cases are reported to police and wildlife crime officers).

3.2.2 In discussion of the countryside user survey it was noted there was a need to: raise awareness of WIIS; and develop simple messages to help the public identify potential poisoning cases (particularly with regard to birds of prey) and minimise the risk that they may handle contaminated carcasses/material. Patrick said that the press release detailing the results of this survey and subsequent material would pick up on these points.

ACTION: Tracey to circulate draft press release to group members

4. Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use update.

4.1 Alan began his presentation by emphasising that the CRRU was designed to complement and not duplicate the work of the CAIP. Activity was not directed at wildlife crime but rather reducing low-level exposure of wildlife to rodenticides and whilst the campaign was successful in influencing professional pest controllers there was still work to do in reaching farmers. Activity during the last year included: media activity (TV programme and article in Farmers Weekly); development of training courses; the continuing success of the CRRU supporters club; and cash support for the Predatory Birds Monitoring Scheme.

ACTIONS: Edward to circulate copy of presentation by 15 May

[post meeting note: all presentations from meeting were distributed 13 May]

All to notify Allan whether they want DVD of TV programme

In discussion on the work of the CRRU it was noted that: there was a need for Natural England to nominate a replacement for Jennifer Best on the board; and that wider availability of the training courses might be beneficial.

ACTION: Peter to nominate NE replacement

5. 2007 Pesticide Poisoning of Animals Report and 2008 quarterly reports (CRD)

5.1 2007 Pesticide Poisoning of Animals Report. The Pesticides Poisoning of Animals Report for 2007 was published (later than originally planned) in December 2008. The numbers of approved use, abuse and misuse incidents were broadly similar to those seen in previous years.

CRD was aiming to publish the 2008 report by summer 2009. It was agreed this was an important opportunity to highlight WIIS. Members of the group asked to be notified of its publication and any associated publicity.

ACTION: Elaine

5.2 2008 Quarterly Reports. Since quarter 3 (published January 2009) the format of quarterly reporting had changed. The information is now published in one searchable Excel spreadsheet (i.e. by quarter, country and county etc.), rather than in separate pdf documents that had to be updated separately. A pdf version of each quarter's results will continue to be published, but will remain a snapshot of the data available at that time and will not be updated. A summary of the cases accepted into the scheme each quarter will continue to be published separately. Any feedback should go to Elaine.

ACTION: All

6 Updates from devolved administrations.

6.1 Nothing reported from Wales or Northern Ireland. Hugh updated the group on activity in Scotland (where bird of prey poisoning is a high profile issue and there is a well developed network of wildlife crime officers).

7 Other updates (All)

7.1 The updates from the summary paper were swiftly covered; Dorothy asked if she could be e-mailed the summary paper.

ACTION: Edward to distribute paper to the group.

[post meeting note: paper was distributed to group 13.05.09]

8. CAIP stakeholders – plans for 2009/10 (All)

Future plans highlighted in the summary paper were drawn to the group's attention.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 A colour poster for fastening to Larsen traps was enclosed in the information pack; this is also downloadable from the CAIP website.

9.2 Defra have advised that they are still considering whether to make an order prescribing pesticides under Section 43 of the NERC Act 2006 (illegal to possess without good reason).

9.3 In response to a question from Dave group members commented that they were encouraged by progress in the re-launched campaign and would welcome the opportunity to continue to meet and would like to participate more fully in directing future activity. It was also agreed the group should see major publications before they were released. CRD noted that they were looking the membership of the group

ACTION: Tracey

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that consideration should be given to scheduling this meeting earlier in the calendar year to enable the group to influence the following year's campaign (which is run on a financial year basis).

ACTION: CRD to discuss and Tracey notify the group, by end of May.