

**Campaign Against Illegal Poisoning (CAIP) Meeting**  
**13 September 2006**  
**14:00-16:00hrs**  
**McLeod Suite, Dean Court Hotel, York**

Attendees:

**Adrian Dixon** – Pesticides Environment Policy (PEP) Branch, PSD - Chair  
**Grant Stark** – PEP Branch, PSD  
**Tracey Ware** – PEP Branch, PSD  
**Sue Rambridge** – PEP Branch, PSD – Minutes Secretary  
**Cathy Ferguson** – PEP Branch, PSD – Minutes Secretary  
**Lauri Bland** – PEP Branch, PSD  
**Libby Barnett** – Central Science Laboratory (CSL)  
**Barbara Bell** – ADAS UK Ltd  
**Jennifer Best** – English Nature  
**John Brownlee** – Scottish Executive Environment Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD)  
**Alan Buckle** – Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)  
**Dorothy Fairburn** – Country Land & Business Association (CLA)  
**David Graham** – Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Northern Ireland (DARD NI)  
**Steve Higginbotham** – Bayer Cropscience Ltd on behalf of the Crop Protection Association (CPA)  
**Peter Karner** – Rural Development Service (RDS)  
**Rob Simpson** – BASIS Ltd  
**Mark Thomas** – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
**Bruce Watson** – National Gamekeepers' Organisation (NGO) - Moorland Branch

Apologies:

**Colin Booty** – Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)  
**Martin Brown** – the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust  
**Dr David J Bullock** – the National Trust  
**Nick Carter** – British Trust for Ornithology  
**Tim Davis** – Acting Director of Policy, PSD  
**Stephen Dawson** – National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)  
**Hazel Doonan** – Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)  
**Martin Gillybrand** – Moorland Association  
**John Haigh** – Countryside Alliance  
**Tony Harman** – British Pest Control Association (BPCA)  
**Sam Littlechilds** – Youth Hostels Association (YHA)  
**Mike McKendry** – the Game Conservancy Trust  
**Dr Roslyn McKendry** – Pesticide Action Network (PAN) UK  
**Rhian Nowell-Phillips** – Farmers' Union of Wales  
**Ian Pepper** – BPCA  
**Mike Potts** – Health & Safety Executive (HSE)

**PC Mark Rasbeary** – North Yorkshire Police  
**Christine Rumble** – Defra - Wildlife Species Conservation Division  
**Colin Shawyer** – the Hawk & Owl Trust  
**Maggie Simons** – National Federation of Women’s Institutes (NFWI)  
**Stewart Scull** – British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)  
**PC Sally Smart** – West Yorkshire Police  
**Robert Smith** – Chairman, Environmental Panel of the ACP  
**Jean Train** – Defra Press Office  
**Rosie Tyreman** – Pesticides Registration and Enforcement Policy (PREP) Branch, PSD  
**John Cousins** – the Wildlife Trusts Partnership  
**Rob Griffiths** – Welsh Assembly Government  
**Chris Kaufman** – Rural Agricultural and Allied Workers (RAAW) Trade Group of the Transport and General Workers’ Union (TGWU)  
**Laurie Norris** – National Farmers’ Union  
**Peter Serjent** – Defra Communications Directorate  
**Mr Sperring** – the Hawk & Owl Trust  
**Dr David Stroud** – Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)  
**Tom Wheelwright** – the Moorland Association

## **1 Introduction**

**1.1** *The Chair* (Adrian Dixon) opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He invited them to introduce themselves.

## **2 Action Points from 14 February 2006 Meeting: Summary**

**2.1** *The Chair* reported as follows:

**2.1.1** Action point 4.1: Rosie Tyreman (*PSD*) was unable to attend the meeting, but had asked the Chair to report that providing a breakdown of abusers would not improve targeting as PREP only have a small number of prosecutions and most of this information was already in the public domain.

**2.1.2** Action point 2.1.1: Ideas from ADAS on how best to use the promotional CD had not been progressed due to budgetary restraints.

**2.1.3** Action point 8.1: *PSD* (Tracey Ware) informed the meeting that RSPB’s ‘check your pesticide store’ paper would be taken forward as part of the discussion on future targeting of the Campaign. She reported that the issue was that some pesticides were no longer approved for use and people were being asked to dispose of them in the correct manner. *RDS* (Peter Karner) said when the prescribed pesticides are defined in the NERC Act it would be useful to do some publicity to encourage proper disposal and it would be helpful to have HSE literature available to support this.

**2.2** CSL (Libby Barnett) reported as follows:

**2.2.1** Action point 4.1: area maps were distributed at the meeting.

### **3 Pesticides Poisoning of Animals Report 2005: Update**

**3.1** CSL reported as follows: A paper was tabled summarising the 2005 Pesticides Poisoning of Animals Report. Libby outlined trends in Wildlife Incident Investigation Scheme (WIIS) figures for the whole of the UK from 2002 to 2005. Although overall number of pesticide incidents is in decline, the range of pesticides being tested for is being continually extended. Pesticides not approved for use in the UK but imported from other EU Member States are increasingly being abused in the UK.

**3.2** PSD (Grant Stark) noted that there had been two approved use cases in 2005, involving a red squirrel and a weasel. Both of these incidents had occurred as a result of using rodenticide products. One of these had occurred in Scotland and the other was an HSE approved product. It was agreed SEERAD and HSE should report on their assessment of how these cases affected product approvals.

**Action: HSE & SEERAD**

**3.3** CRRU (Alan Buckle) noted, in connection with approved UK cases, that even if used properly, it was very difficult to prevent squirrels taking bait laid for rats.

**3.4** CPA (Steve Higginbotham) noted that the decrease in approved use incidents was possibly due to sealed pesticide containers introduced around 2000. He agreed to confirm the exact date.

**Action: CPA**

### **4 Quarterly Reporting**

**4.1** PSD (Tracey) said that the first quarterly report was published on the website on 20 July 2006. Details for Scotland and Northern Ireland are still to be added. The question of publishing 'real time' information is currently being discussed with Defra lawyers, particularly as disclosing information on ongoing cases could be prejudicial to that case.

**[Post meeting note:** The lawyers have confirmed that there is no problem publishing the information, but advised that the detail should be kept to a minimum, (e.g. 'a case in Norfolk involving a dead cat'). They are content that the information already published may remain in the public domain.]

## **5 Overview of 2006 campaign, including targeting**

### **5.1 ADAS (Barbara Bell) reported as follows:**

**5.1.1** At the last meeting it was decided that targeting would be concentrated around East Anglia. This area had displayed the second highest area of incidents in the country. This year's Campaign started in April with the East Anglia Game and Country Fair. Other events attended included the RSPCA day in Norfolk, the Wood Green Animal Shelter Awareness Day and the Safeguarding our Wildlife seminar. All of these events had occurred in the first five months of the year. The winter programme was planned to consist of other things such as liaison with the red kite project centre, and static events using the promotional CD. However a halt had to be called following a reduction in the budget. ADAS will be attending the two BASC road shows planned for November and March. Barbara recorded thanks to the National Gamekeepers Organisation (NGO) who had been helpful in providing shared stand space at the Game Fair and the Royal Show.

### **5.2 SEERAD (John Brownlee) reported as follows:**

**5.2.1** Scotland in 2006 would be a record year for the number of poisoning incidents. There had been a great deal of media coverage over two cases involving the poisoning of golden eagles since August. The Campaign stand at the Scottish Game Fair in July and the Highland Field Sports Fair in Inverness in August had attracted a lot of attention. The future of the Campaign in Scotland is being considered.

Some police forces now have full time wildlife crime officers and this could be the reason for the increase in incident numbers.

The introduction of the possession of pesticides offence had resulted in four people being successfully prosecuted. All of these charges have led to successful prosecutions with fines ranging from £50 to £100.

Ministers are currently addressing concerns in relation to wildlife crime issues through a group chaired by the Area Procurator Fiscal for Dumfries & Galloway; the Wildlife & Habitats Crime Prosecution Forum. It has met twice already and is training the procurators fiscal (to make them more aware of wildlife crime and to help them present a better case when it goes to court). The intention is for each Area Procurator Fiscal office to have a depute fiscal with responsibility for taking forward wildlife crime cases. Improved liaison between the area fiscal offices and the reporting agencies such as the police, SEERAD, etc. is being encouraged in an attempt to see changes in sentencing. The maximum fine is currently £5,000 and 6 months in prison. The average fine imposed is currently around £250.

### **5.3 *The Chair* asked CRRU and CSL to update the meeting on activity in England.**

**5.3.1** *CRRU* (Alan Buckle) reported as follows: In the first full year of operation they made a presentation at the Safeguarding our Wildlife seminar in Huddersfield organised by the University of Huddersfield in conjunction with the Hawk and Owl Trust. They had also attended a number of shows, including the Game Fair, and are currently concentrating on developing their website. Articles in 'Farmer's Weekly' also helped to raise the campaign's profile. Campaigning for safe rodenticide use had featured in the publication.

Alan noted the importance of *CRRU* and *CAIP* developing complementary activity programmes. At present they are concentrating on targeting low level contamination rather than focussing on the criminal side of things. They hoped to have a paper and electronic media training module ready before the end of the year. This would be used in agricultural colleges and with anyone who uses rodenticides, including farmers and gamekeepers.

#### **5.4** Updates from other attendees:

*English Nature* (Jennifer Best) noted that resource was available to support the predatory birds monitoring scheme (PBMS). The PBMS is run from the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH). Since the 1990s the scheme has focussed activity on second generation anti-coagulants in birds of prey. There will be publicity about a new system to get carcasses to the scheme, and depositories to receive carcasses, run by volunteers.

*BASIS Ltd* (Rob Simpson) said that his organisation currently runs courses on biodiversity but would be willing to consider others, depending on demand. They focus on pest controllers and a register of these was due to be rolled out shortly, by BPCA companies. There would be around 5,000 people on the register in the next 12 months and this could be used as a vehicle to disseminate information.

**5.5** *CSL* circulated maps showing the location of various WIIS cases in England and Wales. A question of how exact the maps were was asked. *CSL* stated that the maps were based on a 6 figure grid references and the information was checked at the time the maps were produced. Attendees agreed they were a useful way of presenting details of WIIS cases. *PSD* agreed to consider how these could be developed and disseminated.

*CLA* requested electronic copies of the maps. *The Chair* asked *CSL* to send these to *PSD*, who would then distribute them to interested parties.

**Action: CSL/PSD**

**[Post-meeting note:** *CSL* submitted the electronic maps to *PSD* and these have been sent out to interested parties.]

## 6 Suggestions for 2007 campaign (targeting, events, etc)

6.1 *The Chair* said that the shows/events system for promoting the Campaign had been used for a long time. PSD was now proposing a different approach, based on a three year plan. An ADAS paper with some suggestions was tabled for comments. This included suggestions such as:

- developing the Campaign website; extending this to schools/teachers pack
- smaller number of shows/events
- specialist workshops; (we would need ideas of who to target, remembering that biocides are not in PSD's remit)
- press articles could be put together

Grant reminded the meeting that the Campaign message is two fold. Firstly, the message on responsible use, aimed at operators (for example when addressing a pest problem, this is what you do to protect other species). And secondly, that addressed to the public as the 'eyes and ears' (if anything looks suspicious report it to the appropriate authorities).

Steve noted that there should be some focus on advising chemical users. Agronomists, crop advisers, farmers, etc. need reminders at different times of the year. Maps could be used at operator road shows. Pictures of dead dogs could be used to target users of slug pellets, as these are always a powerful way of getting the message across.

**Action: PSD**

CLA (Dorothy Fairburn) noted that websites are not necessarily the most effective way of reaching the desired target audiences. However, an alert from PSD via e-mail to key stakeholders could be used to highlight new information. For example CLA could disseminate relevant information to interested parties. *RSPB* (Mark Thomas) said that prompts could also be emailed to agricultural colleges (to target future users) and veterinary colleges alerting them to new information.

**Action: PSD**

Dorothy also suggested that greater involvement with skills training in pesticide use could be a way forward. This could be done through LANTRA. The Campaign needed to be more pro-active, good progress had been made but more was still needed. Mark Thomas (*RSPB*) noted that he had been on a one day training course last year, and there was no mention of the Campaign or WIIS.

*The Chair* asked for ideas of key publications for target audiences and press articles for key areas.

**Action: All**

Dorothy reminded the meeting that we need to be clear who offenders are and stressed the importance of focussing targeting in the right area. It was also

important to keep the two areas separate, eyes/ears and operators. Both messages could not easily be conveyed on the same Campaign stand.

*RSPB* noted that they had received some good feedback on a recent training course run for RPA inspectors. This had included training in cross compliance, breaches, traps and poisoning. Around 240 inspectors were involved, covering 30–40 farms each.

In summarising the discussion, *the Chair* said that PSD and ADAS are commissioned to go away and draw up a three year plan considering all points discussed today. This will be circulated for comments.

**Action: PSD & ADAS**

## **7 Campaign websites: Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales**

**7.1** *SEERAD* (John Brownlee) reported that did not have a dedicated website although the annual report is published on the Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA) website. *DARD NI* (David Graham) reported that the Department does not publish any details on their website.

There was agreement that it was preferable to have a single UK Campaign website.

## **8 WIIS Funding**

**8.1** *The Chair* explained that rodenticides will soon be regulated under the Biocidal Products Directive (BPD). As this does not contain provisions for environmental monitoring, it will have implications for funding the monitoring of rodenticide cases. However, as the BPD is taking so long to implement there would be no funding problems for the coming year 2007-08. Talks are continuing with HSE and lawyers. HSE will need to hold discussions with the biocides industry.

**8.2** Alan stated that the first BPD compound was added to Annex 1 last week, the disinfectant sulfuryl fluoride. There should be more products added during the first half of next year. Alan said that difenacoum and bromadiolone may be submitted for approval under the Plant Protection Products regime.

**8.3** *The Chair* asked for any thoughts to be forwarded and these will be passed on to HSE.

**Action: All**

## **9 Any Other Business**

**9.1** Alan stated that when people commit wildlife crime they are usually attempting to stop something in particular, e.g. predatory birds. This could be a third thread to the Campaign.

## **10 Date of Next Meeting**

**10.1** *CLA* suggested circulating a newsletter between meetings to keep people up to date with events. PSD agreed to consider.

**Action: PSD**

**10.2** It was agreed that the next meeting will be held in June, after the 2006 Pesticide Poisoning of Animals report is published. Any other communication will be done electronically.