

**Campaign Against Illegal Poisoning (CAIP) Meeting**  
**27 June 2007**  
**14:00-16:00hrs**  
**Skell 7, York St. John University, York**

Attendees:

**Martin Ward** – Director of Policy, PSD – Chair  
**Adrian Dixon** – Pesticides Environment Policy (PEP) Branch, PSD  
**Grant Stark** – PEP Branch, PSD  
**Tracey Ware** – PEP Branch, PSD  
**Sue Rambridge** – PEP Branch, PSD – Minutes Secretary  
**Rosie Tyreman** – Pesticides Registration Policy (PREP) Branch, PSD  
**Cathy Ferguson** – PEP Branch, PSD  
**Lauri Bland** – PEP Branch, PSD  
**Libby Barnett** – Central Science Laboratory  
**Barbara Bell** – ADAS UK Ltd  
**Paul Cantwell** – Natural England (NE)  
**Dorothy Fairburn** – Country Land & Business Association (CLA)  
**Deborah Snow (formerly Gooch)** – Scottish Executive Environment Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD)  
**Peter Karner** – Natural England (NE)  
**Elizabeth Sharp** – Scottish Agricultural Science Agency (SASA)  
**Guy Shorrocks** – Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)  
**Deborah Traynor** – Health & Safety Executive (HSE)

Apologies:

Dr Jennifer Best – Natural England  
Colin Booty – Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)  
Martin Brown – the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust  
Alan Buckle – Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)  
Dr David J Bullock – the National Trust  
Nick Carter – British Trust for Ornithology  
John Cousins – the Wildlife Trusts Partnership  
Deborah Currie – DARD NI  
Stephen Dawson – National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)  
Hugh Dignon – SEERAD  
Hazel Doonan – Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)  
Alan Edwards – National Gamekeepers' Organisation (NGO) - Moorland Branch  
Jane Elliot-Malpass – Partnership Against Wildlife Crime  
Rowland Furze – Rentokil Initial plc (for BPCA)  
Martin Gillibrand – Moorland Association  
Alison Glennon – National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)  
Rob Griffiths – Welsh Assembly Government  
John Haigh – Countryside Alliance

Tony Harman – British Pest Control Association (BPCA)  
Steve Higginbotham – Crop Protection Association (CPA)  
Chris Kaufman – Rural Agricultural and Allied Workers (RAAW) Trade Group of the  
Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU)  
Sam Littlechilds – Youth Hostels Association (YHA)  
Jackie McCreery – the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association (SRPBA)  
Dr Roslyn McKendry – Pesticide Action Network (PAN) UK  
Laurie Norris – National Farmers' Union  
Rhian Nowell-Phillips – Farmers' Union of Wales  
Ian Pepper – British Pest Control Association (BPCA)  
Mike Potts – Health & Safety Executive (HSE)  
PC Mark Rasbeary – North Yorkshire Police  
Christine Rumble – Defra – Wildlife Species Conservation Division  
Stewart Scull – British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)  
Peter Serjent – Defra Communications Directorate  
Colin Shawyer – the Hawk & Owl Trust  
Maggie Simons – National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI)  
Rob Simpson – BASIS Ltd  
PC Sally Smart – West Yorkshire Police  
Mr Sperring – the Hawk & Owl Trust  
Hugo Straker – the Game Conservancy Trust  
Dr David Stroud – Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)  
Mike Taylor – SASA  
Jean Train – Defra Press Office  
Tom Wheelwright – the Moorland Association

## **1 Introduction**

**1.1** *The Chair* (Martin Ward) introduced himself as the new Director of Policy in PSD and asked the group to introduce themselves.

## **2 Minutes of the previous meeting 13 September 2006: Summary**

**2.1** Martin asked for comments on the minutes of the last meeting.

There were none.

## **3 Matters Arising**

**3.1** Action point 3.1.1: *Deborah Traynor* noted that the approval holders had been informed of matters concerning the approved use cases and that HSE regulates all of the UK, including Scotland.

**3.2** Action point 3.1.1: *Tracey Ware* stated that she had tried to obtain information from the CPA regarding the date when sealed containers were introduced. Tracey will continue with her efforts to get the information and let members know.

**Action: Tracey**

**3.3** Action point 5.5: *Tracey Ware* informed the meeting that the 2006 maps were now available on the PSD WIIS website.

**3.4** Action point 6.1: *Tracey Ware* reported that email alerts to newly published information are being sent out with links to the appropriate web page.

**3.5** Action point 8.1: *Tracey Ware* reported that the question of future funding for monitoring of rodenticides under the Biocide Directive was still ongoing. Members had been asked forward thoughts on this; none had been received to date.

**3.6** Action point 10.1: *Tracey Ware* noted that the idea of circulating newsletters between meetings had been put on hold due to the publication of quarterly reports. These give real time information, which members are alerted to. However if anyone has ideas for information that could be included in a newsletter they should let PSD know.

**Action: All**

**3.7** *Peter Karner* thought that we should be maximising the opportunity to publicise prosecutions relating to pesticides. There had been some information in the media lately but could more have been done? *The Chair* asked whether PSD gets to know of all successful prosecutions. *Rosie Tyreman* replied that the police and Defra's Investigation Services informed PSD of successful prosecutions. *Tracey* said that the idea of sending out links to published prosecutions would be discussed with PREP branch. *Deborah Snow* offered to inform PSD of any Scottish prosecutions; PSD is only involved with cases in England. *The Chair* suggested PSD also obtains information on prosecutions in Wales.

**Action: SEERAD/PSD**

**3.8** *Grant Stark* suggested that the information gathered on the prosecution could be sent out separately to the email alerts that are already sent. Getting the message across to the public could be done by notifying the media. Another method could be via the PAW publications group. Information on any prosecution or court result can be put together quickly. Speaking to gamekeepers who are currently unaware of what goes on would also be a good idea. Details of a recent Defra case involving carbofuran were passed to BASC's Stewart Scull highlighting what pesticides people may store, and what they may not. *Guy Shorrocks* suggested that we should write to the PAW publicity group generically, representing everyone's views and ask them if they would set up a list of journals and publications to target relevant audiences. Following a prosecution, the details could be quickly sent out via PAW to all the relevant audiences.

**Action: PSD**

**3.9** *Deborah Snow* stated that SEERAD would take the same line with Scottish PAW and tie action together with England.

**Action SEERAD/PSD**

#### **4 Review of existing activity: updates from attendees**

**4.1** *Peter Karner* reported as follows:

**4.1.1** The recent Pesticides Forum presentation on WIIS had been well-received. NE had used the WIIS exhibit, which had been funded jointly by PAW and PSD, at a series of police/RSPCA training events. Peter had spoken to PAW and the people who run the PAW road-shows had suggested they use the exhibit at the road-shows. NE had continued to target veterinary practices, some of whom were still not reporting cases because of gaps in knowledge about WIIS. *The Chair* asked whether all police forces had a wildlife crime officer. *Peter* said this was not the case; however most forces do have wildlife crime as part of their remit but not always someone who is dedicated to that specific area. Sometimes it was difficult to get someone out there on the ground. In Scotland each force has nominated wildlife crime officers, working on a part time ad hoc basis, but there are only four full-time wildlife crime officers, two of whom are civilian staff. The National Wildlife Crime Unit in Scotland covers the whole of the UK.

#### **5 Pesticides Poisoning of Animals report 2006**

**5.1** *Libby Barnett* reported as follows:

**5.1.1** A paper was tabled summarising the 2006 Pesticides Poisoning of Animals Report. *Libby* outlined trends in WIIS figures for the whole of the UK from 2002 to 2006. Although the overall picture has stayed similar, the total number of incidents investigated has risen slightly. Around 30% of the overall total for each year is pesticide poisoning. There were only a small number of approved use cases, misuse has stayed the same, abuse figures had risen slightly and unspecified use has gone down slightly. Incidents in Scotland had risen quite a bit in 2006. Figures for Wales and Northern Ireland had stayed similar over several years. Pesticides not approved for use in the UK but imported from other EU Member States are increasingly being abused in this country.

**5.2** *Grant Stark* asked how accurate a picture of the overall problem the report showed. *Guy Shorrocks* said that it was useful to see the trends, and the varying types of abuse that were going on, however the figures probably only show a fraction of offences taking place, possibly even less than 1% of the actual problem. *Grant* noted that the AIC is running a training course on the use of slug pellets; targeting areas like this can have an impact. *Peter Karner* said that alphachloralose stewardship continued to raise concerns and industry contacts were being helpful. *Dorothy Fairburn* noted that the figures are useful and they use them to support LANTRA training.

**5.3** *Adrian Dixon* asked whether there was any information missing from the report that should be included. *Dorothy Fairburn* said that we should be wary of figures

showing declining numbers, as people could be using alternative methods to kill, such as trapping. *Peter Karner* said that monitoring risks from approved use was the principle objective of the scheme and it was good to see that there were only two of these cases in 2006. *Guy Shorrocks* noted that abuse tended to be pre-meditated so leaflet dropping would probably not make a difference to this audience. The National Wildlife Crime Unit has a holistic view on bird crime prosecution and publishing details of prosecution would be a way of getting the message across to the public.

## **6 Update from Scotland**

**6.1** *Deborah Snow* reported as follows:

**6.1.1** A paper was tabled giving an update of Campaign activity in Scotland. There had been an increase in overall numbers of cases in Scotland in 2006. The Deputy Minister of Environment was keen to highlight the problem of poisoning wildlife and a press release had been issued to coincide with the publication of their 2006 Poisoning of Animals Report. Scotland are looking for a cohesive approach and Hugh Dignon was keen to publicise issues surrounding poisoning of wildlife. At the beginning of June there had been a high profile case concerning the abuse of carbofuran. They were given 220 hours community service. The RSPB was closely involved. Scottish PAW will be going out on the road and they will be asked to publicise the Campaign, using posters, maps, etc. A Scottish Campaign meeting was held in January. Agricultural Colleges may be asked to include something in their syllabus. A leaflet will be prepared to highlight cross-compliance issues relating to pesticide abuse/misuse and farming subsidies.

**6.2** *Guy Shorrocks* noted that England is still waiting for the list of pesticides that will be included in the possession of pesticides offence; this would hopefully prevent stock piling of pesticides. It had been disappointing to see fines of only up to £100 handed out to people working on wealthy estates in Scotland.

**6.3** *Deborah Snow* said that in Scotland it was left to the Procurator Fiscal to decide what penalties to hand out. They have a wildlife prosecution forum to educate prosecutors on wildlife crime issues, looking at individual case studies and best practice and the forum is made up of members who specialise in environment and wildlife. Sheriffs are responsible for handing out fines. This was a small step, but the process is still ongoing.

**6.4** *Grant Stark* noted that, with regard to the pesticide list for England and Wales, there are Defra budgetary constraints. He agreed to keep attendees informed of any progress.

**Action: PSD**

## **7 Campaign Update from ADAS**

**7.1** *Barbara Bell* reported as follows:

**7.1.1** ADAS started the year devising a three year plan, which included some web-based training. However ADAS was asked to deliver a reduced nationally based programme for this year only, as PSD was going to tender for the following year. Their aim for this year was to target gamekeepers to prevent the persecution of birds of prey and also to cover the problems associated with companion animals. ADAS will be attending game shows and RSPCA dog shows etc. and for the first time in March next year they will be attending the NEC Outdoor Show. They will be delivering talks to veterinary colleges, veterinary nurses and wildlife trusts. A static stand had recently been placed at the red kite release site in Gateshead. They aim to visit a couple of BASC roadshows this winter and to write several articles for publications, and asked for ideas on who to target and what topics to include. *Guy Shorrocks* put forward one or two ideas such as the Shooting Times and that the BASC may also be interested. PSD and ADAS would need to liaise on this and come up with some ideas.

**Action: PSD/ADAS**

**7.2** *Tracey Ware* reported that quarterly reports are now published on the website, only one had been published when the last meeting was held. Maps for 2006 have also been published. However legal advice had been that only closed cases could be included. Cases in the 2005 report have been updated on the website to show how cases have progressed. Quarter two for 2007 is now started and will be published shortly. *Grant Stark* asked whether quarterly reports and maps had been a useful development and said that putting this information together involves a big resource input. *Barbara Bell* said that ADAS circulates to interested parties and the maps are a positive step forward. *Deborah Snow* said that the information could be used to alert Ministers to increasing problems, instead of alerting them after the issue has occurred.

## **8 Links with Associated Campaigns**

**8.1** *The secretariat* tabled a paper from Alan Buckle (CRRU) at the meeting, outlining plans for 2007. Any comments would be passed on to Alan by PSD. *Dorothy Fairburn* noted that farmers are facing an increasing problem with rats. This would inevitably lead to more abuse cases with farmers tackling the problem without proper knowledge. *Peter Karner* said that investment in good training was essential. NE colleagues working with the poultry industry had found there is an increase in the numbers of farm workers coming from outside of the UK who could not read the product labels. There was also doubt that the typical number of times contractors check baits on farms is always sufficient; perhaps investment in training for farm-based staff was a better idea.

**8.2** *Adrian Dixon* asked for ideas of how to get the message on training across. *Barbara Bell* said that ADAS had carried out a lot of training with the poultry industry. There was a short discussion about migrant workers in farming. *The Chair* asked if this is an issue that could be taken up with HSE. *Deborah Traynor* said that she is the contact in HSE. This area had been slightly disjointed for a number of years and at a recent meeting the information HSE receive on approved use incidents was discussed. HSE would often only get knowledge of them after the report had been published.

*Deborah* said that she had met with PSD and SASA prior to this meeting and a system had been agreed for keeping them informed on HSE approved use cases.

**8.3** *Tracey Ware* mentioned that she had recently been to a meeting on health surveillance for predatory birds; attendees included CSL and VLA. The outcome was that there is a need to be more joined up and aware of what each organisation is doing and who to contact within each department. The need for a web-based database giving access to all was identified. If anyone had comments on this they should direct them to *Tracey*. *Guy Shorrocks* said that the predatory bird monitoring scheme measures contaminants in selected species of predatory and fish-eating birds in Britain. *Grant* added that the plan is to work more closely with CRRU to avoid duplication of work.

## **9 Publicity Material**

**9.1** A paper showing what PSD had done to promote the Campaign was circulated at the meeting. *Tracey Ware* reported that PSD had produced new leaflets and posters and if organisations needed copies of these they should ask PSD.

**Action: All**

## **10 Contracting out of 2008/09 Campaign**

**10.1** *Adrian Dixon* reported that under procurement law the Campaign would have to be tendered out. The new contract would run for a period of three years from 2008. PSD plans to prepare an invitation to tender and this will be published in the Official Journal in August. Any suggestions for the Campaign specification should be forwarded to PSD. The invitation to tender will also be published on the PSD website and members will be alerted to this. *Deborah Snow* said that if PSD wanted Scotland to place an advert on their website they could do so.

**Action: All**

There was a discussion about whether the specification should include the budget available. PSD agreed to check with Defra's Procurements & Contracts Division.

**Action: PSD**

## **11 Feedback on presentation of the Poisoning of Animals Report**

**11.1** PSD tabled a paper containing comments received on the annual report format. *Tracey* noted that feedback on the report format had been taken on board. *Guy Shorrocks* said that it would be useful to have a summary of enforcement efforts into investigating wildlife cases, such as cautions, arrests, etc. *Tracey Ware* agreed to speak to PSD enforcement colleagues and to colleagues in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and report back.

**Action: PSD**

## **12 Any Other Business**

**12.1** *Peter Karner* noted that historically there had always been a problem with imported pesticides. There was now more hard evidence of pesticides coming into the country from Cyprus, Hong Kong and Southern Ireland. This was a growing issue and an area that we could increase our awareness about. *Adrian Dixon* suggested putting posters up in customs. *The Chair* said that they had tried to do this in Plant Health Division but this had proved to be impractical. In Plant Health they had used the message 'if in doubt keep it out' and this could be used to cover all issues. *The Chair* agreed that PSD would look at what could be done to provide the link.

**Action: PSD**

**12.2** It was noted that the sentencing guidelines are more up to date in Scotland. These needed revising in England. There is a police and wildlife conference taking place this autumn. *Guy Shorrocks* noted that once baits are put out they can be effective for weeks and the chances of being caught are very slim. There was evidence of pesticides being passed from the farming community into the shooting community. Efforts to educate the farming community to reduce this supply may be helpful.

**12.3** It was agreed that the next Campaign meeting should be held early July 2008 to coincide with the publication of the annual report.