

**Campaign Against Illegal Poisoning (CAIP) Meeting
14 February 2006
14:00-16:00hrs
Foss House, York**

Attendees:

Tim Davis	Acting Director of Policy, PSD - Chair
Adrian Dixon	Pesticides Environment Policy (PEP) branch, PSD
Grant Stark	Pesticides Environment Policy (PEP) branch, PSD
Tracey Ware	Pesticides Environment Policy (PEP) branch, PSD - Minutes Secretary
Rosie Tyreman	Pesticides Registration & Enforcement Policy (PREP) branch, PSD
Cathy Ferguson	Pesticides Environment Policy (PEP) branch, PSD
Libby Barnett	Central Science Laboratory (CSL)
Barbara Bell	ADAS
John Brownlee	Scottish Executive Environment Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD)
David Ellington	British Pest Control Association (BPCA)
David Graham	DARD NI (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland)
Cath Harris	Crop Protection Association (CPA)
Peter Karner	Defra Rural Development Service (RDS)
Stewart Scull	BASC (British Association for Shooting and Conservation)
Guy Shorrocks	RSPB
Jean Train	Defra Press Office

Apologies

Colin Booty (RSPCA)	Chris Kaufman (TGWU)
Martin Brown (Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust)	Sam Littlechild (YHA)
Nick Carter (British Trust for Ornithology)	Roslyn McKendry (PAN UK)
John Cousins (Wildlife Trusts Partnership)	Mike McKendry (The Game Conservancy Trust)
Hazel Doonan (Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC))	Laurie Norris (National Farmers Union (NFU))
Graham Elliott (RSPB)	Rhian Nowell-Phillips (Farmers Union of Wales)
Dorothy Fairburn (Country Land & Business Association (CLA))	Mike Potts (Health & Safety Executive(HSE))
Dr Maurice Hankey (Scottish Rural Property Business Association (SRPBA))	PC Mark Rasbeary (North Yorkshire Police)

Alison Glennon (National Office of Animal Health (NOAH))
Tom Guy (National Gamekeepers Organisation – Moorland Branch)
Rob Griffiths (WAG)
Tony Harman (British Pest Control Association (BPCA))

Colin Shawyer (Hawk & Owl Trust)
David Stroud (Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC))
Tom Wheelwright (Moorland Association)

1. Introduction

1.1 *The Chairman* opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. He invited them to introduce themselves.

2. Action Points from 7 April 2005 Meeting: Summary

2.1 *Tracey Ware* reported as follows:

2.1.1 Barbara Bell had informed her that the Campaign slides were going to be put onto a CD.

[Post-meeting note: this has now been done. PSD and ADAS need to decide the way forward with this.

Action: PSD/ADAS]

2.1.2 The draft action plan for targeting has been overtaken by the decision to target East Anglia in 2006.

2.1.3 The Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW) meeting had not been attended by PSD. *SEERAD* reported that Scotland had already implemented the possession of pesticides offence, and some charges had been made under it. The cases were ongoing. *The Chairman* requested that *SEERAD* keep PSD informed of the outcome.

Action: SEERAD

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Bill would create a similar offence in England and Wales. This was progressing through Parliament and was expected to become law by Easter. A separate Order listing named pesticides would be created subsequent to this.

2.1.4 PREP branch had met separately with RDS and with Legal to discuss enforcement issues. Defra is reviewing its enforcement policy.

2.1.5 RDS (Peter Karner) reported that PAW now has a sub-group on poisons, which he chairs. The sub-group reports to the PAW steering group which is co-chaired by Martin Brasher (Defra) and Richard Brunstrom (N Wales Police). The poisons sub-

group held its first meeting in January; the next one will be in April. Its remit is different to that of CAIP, with a remit wider than pesticides; it has yet to agree its priorities. A project brief for the sub-group has been prepared, which was currently in consultation. The Crown Prosecution Service is informed of potential cases to take forward for enforcement action. *RSPB* (Guy Shorrocks) reported that more than half of these cases involve pesticides, mostly abuse; not many are misuse. *RDS* added that its links with PSD's enforcement branch are good.

2.2 *PSD* (Tracey Ware) asked whether attendees had anything else to add to summarise the action points.

2.2.1 Action point 16: *ADAS* (Barbara Bell) reported that some RSPCA events had been targeted, including regional heats of dog shows. She added that she had found the RSPCA very receptive and helpful.

2.2.2 *RSPB* (Guy Shorrocks) said that a Mr Bowie runs the Red Kite Relief Project. There had been a poisoned red kite last year. He added that James Leonard had been appointed into a new post – Investigations Officer – based in Newcastle. He will be liaising with the red kite project. *RSPB* also reported that they sometimes get speculative calls, which they investigate with the police. If any of the cases are pesticide poisoning, then they will be reported to WIIS. If pesticides are not involved, then the CPS and police will deal with them. *RSPB* helps to prepare the prosecution file. *ADAS* added that they were hoping to do some work with the red kite project.

Action: ADAS

ADAS also reported that they had a static display at the National Trust in Gibsdale.

2.2.3 *BASC* (Stewart Scull) noted that the penultimate sentence of paragraph 6 of the minutes should say grouse 'shooting', not 'rearing'.

3 Pesticides Poisoning of Animals Report 2004 (PPA 2004): Update

3.1 *CSL* (Libby Barnet) circulated a paper summarising the 2004 report. *PSD* asked for an electronic version of this.

Action: CSL

CSL stated that the report had been in the same format since 1997. For 2004 the incidents had been re-ordered by category instead of county. Also, this was the first time it had been 'Plain Englished'.

CSL reported that in 2004 there had been no approved use cases for the first time and that there had been the lowest number of abuse cases to date. There had been abuse of pesticides with no UK approval, e.g. methomyl (the packaging was in Greek).

BPCA (David Ellington) asked whether there was a breakdown of use and abuse of rodenticide products. *CSL* replied that they do have that information, but it was not included on the circulated summary. There had also been secondary poisoning involving rodenticides.

In a species breakdown, there were more birds than mammals, but less honey bees.

The Chairman asked attendees how to account for the overall decline in the number of incidents reported by the scheme. *CSL* replied that there was no decline in Northern Ireland and Wales, so there was (hopefully) less poisoning in England. In response to a question from *RSPB*, *CSL* reported that the relatively small number of cases made it difficult to carry out any reliable trend analysis.

4 Pesticides Poisoning of Animals Report 2005: New Format

4.1 In 2005, the Environment Panel had endorsed changing the format of *WIIS* annual reports. The revised version will consist of 2 or 3 pages covering abuse, misuse, enforcement action, key issues and long-term trends. Appendix 2 would still be included, with a more detailed comments section. The rest of the report will be available electronically, with options to search and sort data. The report should be easier to compile and published by June. The web-based resource could be kept more up-to-date. *CSL* asked whether there was any problem releasing information when investigations were ongoing. *The Chairman* replied that the incidents would have to be considered on a case-by-case basis. *BPCA* asked whether an interim report could be issued, as this would help those who needed the data to inform what they were doing. *The Chairman* replied that *PSD* will consider this when it looks at reporting.

Action: PSD

The Chairman added that there is always an issue as to who the audience is for this kind of publication. He asked the Defra press office (Jean Train) for their opinion. *The Press Office* replied that each incident would be of greater interest to local media; the annual report is more relevant to national media.

BASC noted that appendix 2 was important to them. *RSPB* added that maps would also be useful. *CSL* stated that they have grid references for all incidents and undertook to investigate the feasibility of providing these for maps.

Action: CSL

BASC said that abuse was not always deliberate. *RDS* pointed out that there had been a recent article about *WIIS* funding in the 'Pest Control News', but that there had been no follow-on message. *BPCA* asked whether targeting could be improved by identifying those who carry out the abuse. *RSPB* suggested looking at prosecution records/cases where there was a suspect.

Action: PSD

ADAS reported they had targeted game-keepers and produced a leaflet aimed at them. BASC added that it promotes responsible pesticide use to its members.

5 Overview of 2005 Campaign, including Targeting

5.1 ADAS circulated a paper update. They reported that targeting worked by focussing activity almost exclusively in a specified area, with attendance at a handful of 'national' events. Organisations had agreed that the North of England (i.e. North Yorkshire, Cumbria and Northumberland) should be targeted in 2005. Agricultural shows had been supportive, providing free attendance. ADAS had been in contact with the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU), supplying them with leaflets for their publicity packs. These had also been put into the ADAS training packs (prepared for trainees at ADAS Pest Management courses). ADAS had received one request from PSD to 'blitz' an area – Geltsdale – in response to a WIIS incident there.

The Chairman asked whether it was too early to gauge whether targeting had worked. *RDS* replied that they had not been able to detect any increase in reporting in those areas. They had looked at rejected as well as accepted incidents, but there was nothing obvious. *RSPB* noted that raptor poisoning in lowland areas had decreased significantly, although some work remained to be done in the uplands. ADAS added that it had looked at having a rolling programme over three areas; the North-East, East Anglia and the Welsh Borders.

SEERAD noted that the introduction of the possession of pesticides offence had generated a great deal of positive publicity. *SEERAD* circulated some of their new campaign material, and reported that it had been popular with schoolchildren (rulers, bookmarks, pens, pencils).

6 2006 Campaign

6.1 Targeting

ADAS mentioned that the other areas suggested in the targeting paper tabled at the last meeting were either East Anglia (Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire) or Essex. After some discussion, *the meeting* agreed we should target East Anglia this year, and then the North again in 2007.

Action: ADAS

PSD suggested that we could do more educationally in 2007, with a re-launch of the Campaign, with new material and perhaps a new logo. ADAS added that it would be useful to plan the 2007 Campaign throughout 2006.

6.2 Other developments

SEERAD is considering producing a leaflet targeted at vets, which they could display in their surgeries. *ADAS* added that they did a mail shot about 4 years ago, on a national basis – it is probably time to do so again.

RSPB suggested that whenever an abuse incident with no suspect is reported, we should do some publicity. *ADAS* added that they have done radio interviews in the past, with PSD providing a script.

RSPB said that they have a lot of pictures available. They try and follow up every abuse case with the media.

CSL mentioned an article published recently in York's local paper – the Evening Press. They have put more information about WIIS and the Campaign in the metadata of the *CSL* website, so that 'CSL' comes up high on Internet search engines.

RSPB asked whether anyone had considered offering a reward for information leading to prosecution. *The Chairman* replied that PSD was not aware that any other Government Departments had done this and noted that the Treasury probably wouldn't agree to it. *RSPB* suggested raising reward money through PAW. *The Chairman* asked whether the *RSPB* had ever considered it. *RSPB* replied that they had, but only through the Police. *The Chairman* added that there could be an issue of prejudicing cases – would need to consider that. It would be OK for cases where there was no suspect.

7 WIIS Funding

7.1 *PSD* reported that the Biocidal Products Directive (BPD) does not allow for funding for WIIS after March 2007 from biocidal product manufacturers and PSD is discussing this with HSE and Defra. *The Chairman* added that PSD has national legislation through COPR; the continuation of WIIS funding from the levy was secure for 2006-07. The European system draws the distinction between the Plant Production Products Regulation (PPPR) and the BPD.

8 Any Other Business

8.1 Storage

RSPB reminded attendees that there was a discussion at the last Campaign meeting on 'check your pesticide store'; an HSE initiative to try to raise the profile of WIIS in problem areas; spot checks were possible. The *RSPB* representative had submitted comments to PSD on 3 May last year. PSD and *RSPB* agreed to consider this outside the meeting.

Action: PSD/RSPB

The Chairman mentioned that some historically problematical pesticides, e.g. aldicarb, are being withdrawn next year. *BPCA* stated that a condition of membership of the Association is 3-yearly checks of pesticide stores. *The Chairman* added that BASIS also carries out inspections and noted that they could be a requirement of Assurance Schemes. *SEERAD* suggested that information about stores should be available before the new legislation comes into force. *BASC* said that they were surprised at the lack of awareness of employers about their responsibilities for pesticide storage. There was also the question of absentee landlords and gamekeepers. *RDS* mentioned that there was a training event coming up focussing on storage; HSE will be covering that.

8.2 Website

PSD reported that the Campaign website was not up to date. *PSD* asked attendees whether they had any objections to the Campaign minutes being published via the website. *PSD* asked for comments and suggestions on the website by mid-March.

Action: All

9 Date of next meeting

9.1 The date for the next meeting was agreed as 13 September 2006.