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The Rt Hon George Howarth MP
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The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State

Dear George,

Thank you for your email of 22 June on behalf of a number of your constituents about bee health and neonicotinoids.

I can assure you that sustaining bees and other pollinators remains of paramount importance to Defra. We are committed to protecting the health of honey bees and maintaining a diverse range of pollinators.

The National Pollinator Strategy is a framework for collective action to help manage and raise awareness of the pressures facing pollinators. The Strategy seeks to address key gaps in our understanding about the current status of pollinators, while also identifying actions all can take to help expand food, shelter and nest sites.

In addition, the European Commission imposed restrictions on neonicotinoids from 2013. As a result, three neonicotinoids are not permitted for use on a wide range of crops "attractive to bees". The UK has implemented these new rules in full. These restrictions remain in place until and unless the European Commission decides to change them.

Thank you again for your email.

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs



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