

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

October 2021

Dear Constituents

Thank you for your email about pollinators and the Environment Bill.

I understand that an amendment to the Environment Bill related to the use of pesticides was brought forward in the House of Lords. I would like to assure you that protecting pollinators is a Government priority and that decisions on pesticide authorisation are already based on expert assessment by the Health and Safety Executive. As well as this, the independent UK Expert Committee on Pesticides also advises on novel scientific issues. I understand that current legislation requires that active substances and pesticide products have “no unacceptable effects on the environment ... having particular regard to its impact on non-target species”, which can include impacts on bees and other pollinators.

The scientific risk assessment of these products relies on detailed data requirements and processes, and the Government ensures that these are updated to keep in step with developments in scientific understanding. I also know that risk assessments made for active substances are already subject to public consultation. These assessments establish the key risks posed by pesticide substances in representative conditions of use. My ministerial colleagues will continue making decisions on pesticides use based on scientific risk assessments, while aiming to achieve high levels of protection for people, wildlife, and the environment.

Finally, ministers will be publishing the revised National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (NAP) at the end of 2021. This will provide improved protection for pollinators, as well as human and environmental benefits.

Because of these points, the amendment was not deemed necessary and was therefore not accepted by Parliament.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to contact me and if I can ever be any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

Yours Sincerely
Peter Gibson

PETER GIBSON MP

Member of Parliament for Darlington

Constituency Office: 34 Duke Street, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 7AQ Telephone: 01325 711711

Email: peter.gibson.mp@parliament.uk Website: www.petergibson.org

    @gibbo4darlo