

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

17th July 2017

Dear Constituent,

RE: BEES AND BREXIT.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of chemical use, bees and their protection after Brexit.

I entirely agree with you that bees and other pollinators play a vital role in the security of our food supply and the quality of our environment. I welcome the work the Government has done over the last few years to protect them, most recently through its *National Pollinator Strategy*.

While we remain in the EU, the UK will continue to meet its obligations under EU law; including restrictions on neonicotinoids.

As part of the preparation for exiting the EU, Ministers are considering future arrangements for pesticides. Their highest priority will continue to be the protection of people and the environment and, taking the advice of the independent Expert Committee on Pesticides, they will base these decisions on a careful scientific assessment of the risks.

Minimising risks from pesticides is just one component of the *National Pollinator Strategy*, the purpose of which is to lay out plans to improve our understanding of the abundance, diversity, and role of pollinators, and identify any additional actions that will need to be taken. It also sets out new work to be done immediately, building on longer-term initiatives that were already under way.

Significant advances over the draft Strategy include raising the profile of existing initiatives to conserve and create good quality wild flower meadows, and minimising risks from pesticides. Organisations such as Network Rail, Highways Agency and the National Trust have agreed that railway embankments, motorway embankments and forests, will be used to create bee and insect friendly habitats.

It also introduced the first ever wild pollinator and farm wildlife package, which makes more funding available to farmers and landowners who take steps to protect pollinators. In its first year of operation, over half of the mid-tier applications to the *Countryside Stewardship Scheme*, which channels these payments, included this package, so I am confident it will make a real difference.

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

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE