



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Mary Creagh CBE MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature

Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577  
E: [correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk)  
W: [gov.uk/defra](http://gov.uk/defra)

Julie Williams  
Chief Executive  
Butterfly Conservation  
[jwilliams@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:jwilliams@butterfly-conservation.org)

Our ref: PO2024/20443/MO

2 December 2024

Dear Ms Williams,

Thank you for your letter of 18 September to the Secretary of State about the use of neonicotinoids. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and I apologise for the delay in doing so.

This government is committed to delivering our legally-binding biodiversity targets: halting the decline in species abundance by 2030 and reversing the decline so that by 2042, it is at least 10% higher than in 2030, reducing the risk of species extinction and restoring or creating more than 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat by 2042.

The government's first priority with regard to pesticides is to ensure that they will not harm people or pose unacceptable risks to the environment. The government will change existing policies to ban the use of those neonicotinoid pesticides that threaten vital pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Our National Pollinator Strategy sets out actions to address key risks to insect populations, such as habitat loss and fragmentation, invasive species, pests, disease and climate change. This strategy is underpinned by the Pollinator Action Plan, published in May 2022, which sets out more specifically how we will continue to act to fulfil the vision, aims and objectives of the Strategy. This includes monitoring potential or emerging risks to pollinators. We are currently working with our Pollinator Advisory Steering Group to review the Pollinator Action Plan which concludes this year.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact the Secretary of State about this important issue.

Yours  
Mary Creagh

MARY CREAGH CBE MP