

St Edward's School  
Woodstock Road  
Oxford  
OX2 7NN  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear Layla Moran,

I would like to bring to your attention a decision made by the government a few weeks ago to authorise the use of a pesticide that is environmentally regressive to the insect population, especially bees. My name is Isabel Llabres Diaz and along with the bee-keeping community at St Edward's School Oxford, we strive to improve the trend of the already declining bee population in England. We were all distraught to find out that the government had reversed their decision to ban the pesticide that could so negatively affect the biodiversity of our insect community. We would all like to petition against the use of this pesticide and would benefit from your support in Parliament to fight against this unjust and selfish decision.

We can all agree that, at the moment, there are larger problems the government face and need addressing. However, this is something that will result in a greater impact than we can all anticipate. Bees are vital towards a healthy environment and healthy economy. We need bees. We need these paramount super-pollinators that, in essence, are vital to the survival of agriculture. One third of our global food supply is pollinated by bees. They provide service to over 180,000 different plant species, including tomatoes, cucumbers, apples and squash. Not only this; they provide one half of the world's oils, fibres (such as cotton used to make clothes) and other raw materials. They are also used to create medicine, prevent soil erosion, produce oxygen that we breathe, keep waterways clean. The list can go on and on. Simply put, we need bees to survive. And let's not forget the delicious product that is produced from these pollinators: honey. Their significance is too great and one that we cannot afford to lose. But we are running out of time.

In March 2019, a study was released by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) showing that 'a third of British wild bees and hoverflies are in decline'. They went on to say that if the current trends continue, 'some species will be lost from Britain altogether.' This will not only affect our ability to grow food crops but our insect diversity and conservation. According to the study, every square kilometre in the UK has lost an average of 11 species of bees and hoverfly between 1980 and 2013. This further proves that bees are in trouble more so now than ever. The health of our environment is at risk and the food supply cannot be taken for granted. We might not be faced with a critical problem at the moment, but why wait? We know where this is heading. The trends clearly show that we are only going downhill from now. Nevertheless, it is never too late. We can prevent the problem from escalating to the point where the government have no choice but to interfere. We need to prevent the problem. Ensuring that the government stops the authorisation of the pesticide should be our first step.

Moreover, the use of this pesticide will not only be detrimental to the bee colonies but could further pollute rivers with the insecticides applied to the crops. This will adversely impact the population of aquatic insects and harm the birds and mammals eating seedlings from treated seed and birds consuming pelleted seed. The use of neonicotinoids will harm the environment more than we can imagine. It needs to be stopped.

All over the world, billions of bees die each year to complicated causes such as viruses, climate change, decreasing crop diversity and habitat loss. However, amid this there remains one threat under our direct control: pesticides.

I hope that you are able to lend a helping hand towards this crucial aspect of our environment.

Yours faithfully,

Isabel and the Bee-keeping Community at St Edward's

Supported by the following members of our school community (including staff and students):

Burdon Emma  
Charles Fletcher  
Arlo Savile  
Cameron McCaig  
Archie bailey  
Jasper Lloyd  
Harry Frost  
Amy Burnett  
Peter Burdon  
Maddy Powell  
Adam Moffatt  
Pippa Patterson  
Max Brosio  
Cecily Taylor  
Helen barstow  
Ruth Olagunju  
Phoebe  
Freya Burdon  
Alonga Case  
Alanah Keane  
David Aldred  
Alvaro Picornell  
Joanne Butler Parker  
Alexander Byas

Andy Rush  
Alexandre Jennison  
Charlie Scales  
Tilly Pumfrey  
Sade Mcnichols-Thomas  
Charlie  
Evie Gowen  
George Bradshaw  
Tiggy Jones  
Robin Wheeler  
Solana Cabello Malfetano  
Izzy  
Eva Chadwick  
Catherine Holliday  
Violet Amies  
Christina Sternby  
M Sewell  
Carolina Ramirez  
Mark Taylor  
Alice Barnard  
Harry Holberton  
Athena Bonnefoy  
Alice Skilbeck  
Max Lang  
Nisha Callender  
George Spencer  
Arn Caesar  
Alice  
Emily L Orpen  
Lily Helling  
Alexander Barrington Brown  
Bethan Hilsdon  
Niamh Brown  
Ruby Faulkner  
Sofia Shapovalova  
Logan NorrisLambe  
Sam Gorton  
Jessica McPhail  
Leo Wilson  
Hattie Tao  
Audrey Li  
Pietro Pesenti  
Laura Compton  
Olly Gurney  
Daisy  
Hanna Edmundson

Siriya Pumapanich  
Pamela Keeley  
Rowan Bisp  
Eve Blackburn  
CH  
Chloe Riddle  
Lauren Bray  
Arthur Manson  
Clemmie German  
Arthur Armytage  
Charlotte Schofield  
Sophia Finn  
Harry Stuart  
Dr Andrew Davis  
Peter Swainson  
Rick Storey  
Ellie Jackson  
Arya Cont  
Ben Stringer  
Millie Cooper  
William Eve  
Anneli Ruehle  
Venetia Hamilton