

Layla Moran MP

Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West & Abingdon

www.LaylaMoran.com

Chloe Riddle
Jubilee House St. Edward's School
Woodstock Road
Oxford
OX2 7NN

Our Ref: AG/LM36791
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Dear Isabel, Chloe and the Bee-keeping Community at St Edward's,

Thank you very much for your email on the impact of harmful pesticides on bee populations. While I am pleased the government has announced that neonicotinoids will now not be used on sugar beet fields in 2021, it should be noted that this is due to the cold winter conditions killing off virus-transmitting aphids rather than representing a meaningful change in policy.

Thank you also for highlighting the study by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) from 2019, the scale of the problem is massive and you are correct in saying that the use of pesticides is under our explicit control and is one of the factors for which there is a mountain of evidence as having a negative impact on bee populations.

The Liberal Democrats and I are deeply concerned by the Conservative Government's decision to authorise the use of neonicotinoid thiamethoxam - a pesticide which would cause serious problems for bee populations in the UK. The move is frankly careless and deserved more thought.

In Coalition Government, the Liberal Democrats played a crucial role in creating the National Bee Action plan which led to the ban of neonicotinoid pesticides to protect bee populations previously.

The Conservatives are claiming that neonicotinoids may be needed until 2023 which could lead to long term damage to our bee populations as well as other birds, mammals and aquatic organisms.

We are determined that our departure from the European Union should not lead to serious problems for our wildlife nor open the floodgates to further approvals of other neonicotinoids at the expense of investment in innovative solutions.


The Oxfordshire Liberal Democrats are calling for a reversal of the Governments' decision to allow these pesticides to be used. Their petition can be found here:

<http://www.oxonlibdems.uk/saveourbees>

I am disheartened by this decision by Government and the Liberal Democrats and I will do everything in our power to stop the use of bee-harming pesticides and protect the bee population that we have in the UK.

We are also calling on the Government to publish all advice they received in advance of this decision.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Layla Moran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Layla Moran