

FOI Backgrounder: Imidacloprid disclosure by the Scottish Government (30 May 2022)

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202200288263 - Items for release under EIR via Objective Connect

LAST MODIFIED 30 May 2022, 12:08 PM **KW** Kate Webb

PARTICIPANTS (2)

DOCUMENTS

↓ (0) ▾

ZIP **FOI - 202200288263 - items for release Docs 1-37 .zip** (15.1 MB)
Version 1 - Created on 30 May 2022

ZIP **FOI 202200288263 - items for release Docs 38-74 .zip** (21.2 MB)
Version 1 - Created on 30 May 2022

The 74 PDFs are available upon request – please email Don Staniford via salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

Here is the covering letter from the Scottish Government (30 May 2022) followed by a summary of the 74 PDF disclosures:

DIRECTORATE FOR MARINE SCOTLAND
DMARINE : Funding and Strategy



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Don Staniford
salmonfarmingkills@gmail.com

Our Reference: 202200288263

30 May 2022

Dear Mr Staniford,

REQUEST UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2004 (EIRs)

Thank you for your request made by email dated 16 March 2022. Please accept my apologies for the delay as per our previous communications to you.

You asked: "Please provide any information on Imidacloprid (BMK08/Ectosan), CleanTreat and Benchmark since 17 April 2021 (i.e. since a FOI filed on that date: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202100195003/>). Please include any media lines, internal discussions, replies to journalists, Cabinet Briefings, emails, letters and other information relating to Imidacloprid (BMK08/Ectosan), CleanTreat and Benchmark since 17 April 2021.

Please include any details of SAIC's funded Cleantreat project and technology as referred to in the email below (obtained from SEPA via FOI). Please provide any correspondence with Benchmark as well as other parties including SAIC, SEPA, Nature Scotland, VMD, Salmon Scotland (SSPO), the Scottish Government, Mowi, Leroy, Scottish Sea Farms and any other parties on the subject of CleanTreat and Imidacloprid (BMK08/Ectosan Vet). It is understood that Benchmark and SAIC are actively seeking approval to use Imidacloprid via the CleanTreat system.

Please consider this a FOI request under the relevant FOI and Environmental Information regulations. Please provide the information electronically".

Response to your request

As the information you have requested is 'environmental information' for the purposes of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs), we are required to deal with your

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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request under those Regulations. We are applying the exemption at section 39 (2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), so that we do not also have to deal with your request under FOISA.

This exemption is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exemption. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exemption, because there is no public interest in dealing with the same request under two different regimes. This is essentially a technical point and has no material effect on the outcome of your request.

Due to the large number of documents I will separately email you an invitation to a shared Workspace in an online storage facility called "Objective Connect." This online storage facility is now the Scottish Government preferred way to share large and/or numerous files. To access the documents via Objective Connect you will need to click on the link provided in my accompanying email. In order to access the shared Workspace files, you will need to enter your email address and a password of your choice. You will then be able to enter the workspace and view the documents.

Exemptions apply

I enclose a copy of some of the information you requested. While our aim is to provide information whenever possible, in this instance we are unable to provide some of the information you have requested because exceptions under regulation 10(4)(e) (internal communications), regulation 10(4)(d) (material in course of completion, unfinished documents or incomplete data), regulation 11(2) (personal information of a third party) and regulation 10(4)(a) (information not held) of the EIRs applies to that information. The reasons why these exceptions apply are explained in the **Annex** to this letter.

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your EIRs request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by writing to The Director of Marine Scotland, Area 1B South, Victoria Quay, The Shore, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ or by emailing Directormarinescotland@gov.scot.

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.

ANNEX

REASONS FOR NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION

The Scottish Government does not have the information

Under the terms of the exception at regulation 10(4)(a) of the EIRs (information not held), the Scottish Government is not required to provide information which it does not have. The Scottish Government does not have the information you have requested because we do not hold any information on the following points: details of SAIC's funded Cleantreat project and technology and correspondence with Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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Benchmark as well as some other parties which you name in your request, namely Nature Scotland, VMD, Salmon Scotland (SSPO), Mowi, Leroy, Scottish Sea Farms on the subject of CleanTreat and Imidacloprid (BMK08/Ectosan Vet).

This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. While we recognise that there may be some public interest in information we hold relating to the points listed above, clearly we cannot provide information which we do not hold.

However, we are aware that the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre has supported Benchmark with regards to trials which will consider the efficacy of the CleanTreat as applied to the use of a specific medicine which is already authorised for use in this country. BMK08, or any imidacloprid based treatments do not feature in the trials. Marine Scotland does not hold information of the details of the trials, but we are aware that SEPA has been liaising with participants and may be able to offer you further detail.

Exceptions apply

An exception under Regulation 11(2) (personal information of a third party) of the EIRs applies to some of the information you have requested.

Regulation 11(2) – To the extent that environmental information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject and in relation to which either the first or second condition set out in paragraphs (3) and (4) is satisfied, a Scottish public authority shall not make the personal data available. An exception under regulation 11(2) of the EIRs (personal information of a third party) applies to some of the information requested because it is personal data of a third party and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulation and in section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exception is not subject to the 'public interest test', so we are not required to consider if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception.

An exception under Regulation 10(4)(d) – material in course of completion, unfinished documents or incomplete data applies to come of the information you have requested.

An exception under regulation 10(4)(d) of the EIRs (unfinished or incomplete information) applies to some of the information you have requested because it is material which was still in the course of completion and was unfinished when attached to an email exchange which has been released. However, the final complete document has been released.

This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in release as part of open, transparent and accountable government and this has been met by the release of the completed document. However, this is outweighed by the public interest in ensuring that incomplete information which is still in being worked on or is under active consideration is not disclosed when it might give a misleading impression of the Government's view or position on the matter to which the information relates.

An exception under Regulation 10(4)(e) (internal communications) of the EIRs applies to some

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of the information you have requested.

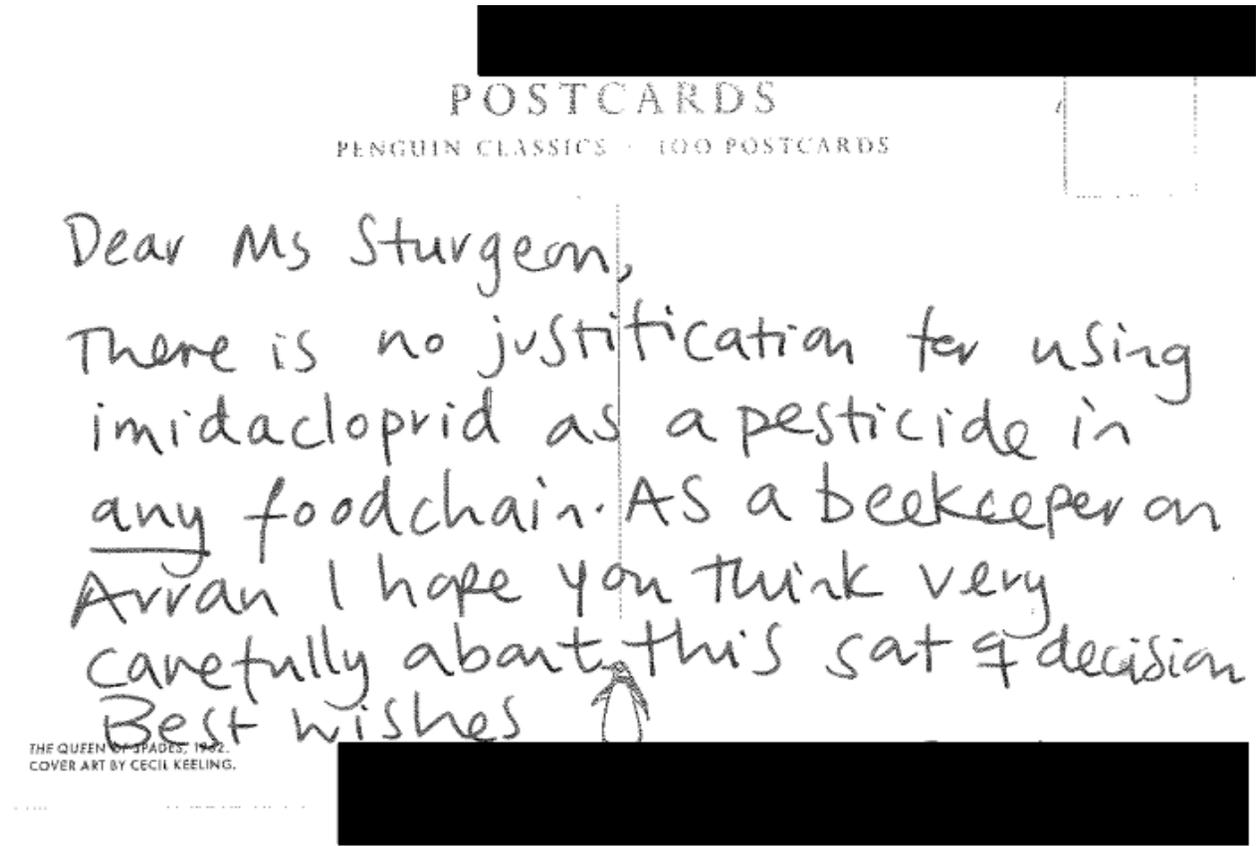
This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is a public interest in disclosing information as part of open, transparent and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in allowing a private space within which officials can provide free and frank advice and views to Ministers in briefing for lines to take.

It is clearly in the public interest that Ministers can properly answer Parliamentary questions, provide sound information to Parliament (to which they are accountable), and robustly defend the Government's policies and decisions. They need full and candid advice from officials to enable them to do so. Premature disclosure of this type of information could lead to a reduction in the comprehensiveness and frankness of such advice and views in the future, which would not be in the public interest.

Yours sincerely

Lorna King
DMARINE : Funding and Strategy

PDF #1:



PDF #2:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 May 2021 10:18
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: Scottish Government & Fish farming

Categories: MICASE

AO [REDACTED]

NO, NO, NO

Now Mr Ewing has departed the scene, I was hoping for a much more balanced approach to this industry. If this is an example, it looks as if the Government continues to be hell-bent on supporting the expansion of this woeful business.

"The [Scottish Government](#) is paving the way for the multinational salmon farming industry to start using a toxic pesticide blamed for killing bees, according to internal emails seen by The Ferret.

Marine Scotland's director, Annabel Turpie, has backed a controversial new treatment system for farmed fish. The system is designed to be used with a pesticide which an expert warned had "potentially devastating consequences for marine life". [REDACTED], The Ferret 21 May 21]

Unless you have something heartening to say in reply and not the usual 'green wash' blurb.....don't bother.

[REDACTED]

PDF #3:

DIRECTORATE FOR MARINE SCOTLAND
DMARINE : Aquaculture and Recreational Fisheries



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202100207650

Your Reference: Possible consent to use neonicotinoid pesticide Imidacloprid in salmon farming.

21 June 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your enquiry of 27 May 2021 in relation to your concerns around the use of the imidacloprid on fish farms. As I have been asked to respond, I'd like to take the opportunity to correct recent media reporting that the way is being paved for its use and reassure you, that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment.

In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached.

More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licence, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the industry are assessed and managed safely.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid, nor has it had any pre-application discussions about it.

Confusion has arisen in recent media reporting between the development by Benchmark of 'CleanTreat' which is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' which is developed by the same company. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any

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scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

I hope this provides you and your constituent with the reassurance that there is no planned imminent approval for imidacloprid use in the marine environment.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
ARF : Aquaculture Unit

PDF #4:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2021 12:54
To: Central Enquiry Unit
Subject: Re: Possible consent to use neonicotinoid pesticide Imidacloprid in salmon farming.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would urge you not to allow the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in salmon farming. The poisons are already polluting watercourses in the UK and causing damage or death to countless millions of invertebrates in marine and freshwater courses. Professor Goulson at Sussex University has suggested that amounts as little as one billionth of a gram is enough to kill marine and freshwater invertebrates and damage or kill soil living organisms. It was shown to be responsible for the collapse of fish stocks in Japan and subsequent loss of birds.

Please do not allow this awful poison to be used in any capacity.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PDF #5:

Same letter as PDF #3

PDF #6:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2021 12:21
To: McAllan M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.McAllan.MSP@Parliament.scot>; Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: contesting use of imidacloprid for sea lice removal

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Hi,

Writing to you both, Nicola Sturgeon as my local MSP and Mairi McAllan as environmental minister. I was very disappointed to read that imidacloprid is being considered for use as sea lice treatment in Scotland's fish farms.

These farms are already a huge environmental disaster, with these fish being fed low grade beef in huge quantities which escapes the nets and causes ecological turmoil in the surrounding sea and loch. Unsettling the fauna for other sea life.

This practice contributes to the sea lice problem, which is again turbo charged by the sheer density of fish caught up in these battery farm size nets where they cannot move properly, let alone rid themselves of lice. Time and time again we see the disastrous impacts of monoculture approaches to farming whereby one valuable product is farmed intensively at all costs. Without other animals creating a balance, when a pest problem occurs it occurs across the board with no 'buffer species'.

Ideally the practice of fish farming should be banned but in the absence of that they need to be seriously reformed. With safer feeding, less dense nets and environmentally safe products being used to treat pests. If this insecticide kills bees, who knows what it will kill in what's left of our marine life. It may be a short term solution but you should be thinking about the long term impact of this on the rest of marine life, not just the ones that currently turn a profit.

To hear that you consider a very toxic and hazardous chemical agent as the answer to this multifaceted problem is deeply troubling. It is not sustainable and may lead to huge knock on effects to creatures further down the food chain which are essential for all the marine animals.

I urge you to reconsider this decision, if we are to believe that the SNP government is committed to a 'green future' then we need to see you being bold and stopping these destructive practices across the board.

Best,

[REDACTED]

PDF #7:

Same letter as PDF #3 and PDF #5

PDF #8:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 May 2021 09:03
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: Nicotinamides for the salmon industry
Attachments: Goes marine life2.pdf

Categories: MICASE

AO – [REDACTED]

Mairi McAllan Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform

Dear Minister,

I am a Marine Biologist and have been involved with the Scottish as well as the world fish farming industry for 40 years.

My company recycle 50% or more of Scotlands glass to make water filtration media, and we have over 1 million water treatment systems around the world for aquaculture. I have formed an organisation www.GoesFoundation.com because I have been shocked about what we are doing to the marine environment and the complete lack of attention that has been given to marine biodiversity and productivity.

The water industry mantra is the solution to pollution is dilution, but this does not work for lipophilic chemicals because they get adsorbed on to hydrophobic particles to become thousands if not millions of times more toxic.

The marine ecosystem is crashing and I know this is happening because I designed the life support system for more than 100 of the worlds largest marine aquaria around the world. The aquarium systems are the best possible proxy for what is happening in the marine environment.

I attach a report recently published in Ocean Science and a hyperlink to a second report.

<https://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3813243>

I am working with MARSH, you may know them as the worlds largest insurance organisation. I am now advising them on possible out-comes from marine degradation and securing of fish farming industry in Scotland

I understand that you may be permitting the use of the insecticide Nicotinamide for use in sea-lice treatment by the salmon industry. This would be catastrophic for the wider marine environment. Also you can't tell me that the industry will take precautions, because the Norwegian sector tried to employ me to provide a solution for the discharge of the chemical.

I therefore urge you not give permission for this chemical which has already been banned throughout Europe for use on land. The application in the sea will be even more destructive.

I am also giving a talk at COP26, if the chemical is used then I will certainly notify the world community what is happening and use this as an example, I there urge you to block the the application of this chemical and all toxic for ever chemicals for use by the aquaculture and marine sectors.

kind regards

[REDACTED]

Roslin Innovation Centre
The University of Edinburgh
Easter Bush Campus
Midlothian EH25 9RG

PDF #9:

Same letter as PDF #3, PDF #5 and PDF #7

PDF #10:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2021 08:43
To: McAllan M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.McAllan.MSP@Parliament.scot>
Subject: Article in Today's Guardian

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https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/27/novichok-for-insects-may-be-approved-for-scottish-fish-farms?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other

Good morning, and many congratulations on your success in the recent Scottish elections. I read the above article, and am appalled if this is accurate. I should be obliged therefore, if you could look into this and advise. I have voted SNP for a long time now, because I believe that the environment and 'being green' matters to you as much as it does to me. I believe in our First Minister to make the right choices for my country. My only feelings now are despair and betrayal.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

PDF #11:

Same letter as PDF #3, PDF #5, PDF #7 and PDF #9

PDF #12:

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform
Sent: 01 June 2021 08:47
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Letter from Sarah Boyack MSP to Mairi McAllan MSP, Minister for Environment (Case Ref: SB5560)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: MICASE

AO – [REDACTED]

Hi

MR please.

From: Sarah Boyack MSP <Sarah.Boyack.MSP@Parliament.scot>

Sent: 31 May 2021 12:03

To: Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform <MinisterEBLR@gov.scot>

Subject: Letter from Sarah Boyack MSP to Mairi McAllan MSP, Minister for Environment (Case Ref: SB5560)

Dear Mairi

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituent who has concerns surrounding the potential use of certain chemicals in Scottish fish farms. I will include his correspondence below:

"I am writing out of concern for the Scottish Government's imminent planned approval for the use of imidacloprid in fish farms (Banned pesticide blamed for killing bees may be approved for fish farms).

To quote the Ferret: It is one of three neonicotinoid chemicals that were banned by the European Commission in 2018 for all outdoor use on plants. The chemical "could no longer be considered safe due to the identified risks to bees," the commission said. According to US government scientists, imidacloprid is an "environmental hazard" which can be "very toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects".

I hope you will do what you can to prevent this decision from going through."

I would appreciate your comment on this so that I can respond to my constituent.

Best wishes,

Sarah

Sarah Boyack MSP
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

PDF #13:

Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land Reform

Ministear airson Àrainneachd, Bith-iomadachd agus Ath-leasachadh Fearainn

Mairi McAllan BPA/MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T : 0300 244 4000

E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Sarah.Boyack.MSP

Sarah.Boyack.MSP@Parliament.scot

Our Reference: 202100210502
Your Reference: Case Ref: SB5560)

5 July 2021

Dear Sarah

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the use of the imidacloprid on fish farms which you sent on behalf of your constituent. I'd like to take the opportunity to correct recent media reporting that suggests the way is being paved for its use and to provide your constituent with reassurance that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached. More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licence, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the sector are assessed and managed safely.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid.

Confusion has arisen in recent media reporting between 'CleanTreat' which is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' both developed by the same company, Benchmark. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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I hope this provides your constituent with reassurance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mairi McCallan".

MAIRI MCCALLAN

PDF #14:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 June 2021 21:02
To: Scottish Ministers
Subject: SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT POTENTIAL APPROVAL OF CLEAN TREAT SALMON FARM
INSECTICIDE: IMIDACLOPRID

Categories: MICASE



Dear Scottish Government

My MSP is James Dornan, who advised me to refer my concern to Scottish Ministers.

I draw your attention to this Guardian article, explaining that Marine Scotland and SEPA appear minded to raise no objection to the introduction of the Clean Treat system by fish farm biocide treatment company Benchmark-
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/27/novichok-for-insects-may-be-approved-for-scottish-fish-farms?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other. We ask you to oppose this, if it comes before the Scottish Parliament.

The treatment includes the neonicotinoid based chemical, Imidacloprid. Neonicotinoids are banned in the EU (and in the UK while in the EU) but, incredibly, not for use in water, after heavy lobbying by pharma tech giant Bayer. The chemical is, nevertheless, found in animal flea treatment and has already made its way into English water courses, despite its ban in farming. Neonicotinoids are extremely dangerous to insect life and have proved disastrous to entire ecosystems in places where they have been introduced widely, such as Japan. They are very effective against lice on industrial farmed salmon, however, which is why the big salmon farming companies, who seem to have an unhealthy grip on the Scottish Government, are desperate to use it.

The linked article summarises the issues well but I believe there are other pieces in the Scottish press and, of course, Private Eye has reported the numerous salmon farm pollutions, chemical releases, and incidents of storm-damaged cages releasing thousands of infected fish, as well as the industry's relentless efforts to expand, despite its dreadful record.

We hope that the Scottish Government ministers will decide against trialling this treatment which, we understand, may be the subject of an application by the treatment company, Benchmark.

Best regards



PDF #15:

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform
Sent: 03 June 2021 08:38
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Banned pesticide blamed for killing bees may be approved for fish farms | Food | The Guardian

Categories: MICASE, [REDACTED]

AO [REDACTED]

Hi

OR please

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 June 2021 13:54
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Banned pesticide blamed for killing bees may be approved for fish farms | Food | The Guardian

[REDACTED]

One for [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
Assistant Private Secretary to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

[REDACTED]
Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

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From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 28 May 2021 10:04
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Banned pesticide blamed for killing bees may be approved for fish farms | Food | The Guardian

Good morning,

Please see the email below from one of Nicola Sturgeon's constituents for a response from (I think?) Ms McAllan.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Constituency Office of Nicola Sturgeon | MSP for Glasgow Southside
Oifis Sgìre-Pàrlamaid Nicola Sturgeon | BPA airson Glaschu Taobh a Deas

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 4:32:03 PM
To: Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Banned pesticide blamed for killing bees may be approved for fish farms | Food | The Guardian

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<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/27/novichok-for-insects-may-be-approved-for-scottish-fish-farms>

Hi Nicola
Can you please confirm that these pesticide will NOT be approved by the Scottish Parliament.
It is unthinkable
Kind regards

[REDACTED]

PDF #16:

Similar letter as PDF #3, PDF #5, PDF #7, PDF #9 and PDF #11

PDF #17:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 June 2021 13:55
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: contesting use of imidacloprid for sea lice removal

Another one for MMc

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Room 2N.08 | St. Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 28 May 2021 10:05
To: Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment <MinisterRANE@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: contesting use of imidacloprid for sea lice removal

Morning,

Another one of the same issue from one of Nicola Sturgeon's constituents for a response.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Constituency Office of Nicola Sturgeon | MSP for Glasgow Southside
Oifis Sgìre-Pàrlamaid Nicola Sturgeon | BPA airson Glaschu Taobh a Deas

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 12:31:13 PM
To: McAllan M (Mairi), MSP <Mairi.McAllan.MSP@Parliament.scot>; Sturgeon N (Nicola), MSP <Nicola.Sturgeon.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Re: contesting use of imidacloprid for sea lice removal

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My Address is
[REDACTED]

On Thu, May 27, 2021 at 12:20 PM [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hi,
Writing to you both, Nicola Sturgeon as my local MSP and Mairi McAllan as environmental minister. I was very disappointed to read that imidacloprid is being considered for use as sea lice treatment in Scotland's fish farms. These farms are already a huge environmental disaster, with these fish being fed low grade beef in huge quantities which escapes the nets and causes ecological turmoil in the surrounding sea and loch. Unsetting the fauna for other sea life. This practice contributes to the sea lice problem, which is again turbo charged by the sheer density of fish caught up in these battery farm size nets where they cannot move properly, let alone rid themselves of lice. Time and time again we see the disastrous impacts of monoculture approaches to farming whereby one valuable product is farmed intensively at all costs. Without other animals creating a balance, when a pest problem occurs it occurs across the board with no 'buffer species'. Ideally the practice of fish farming should be banned but in the absence of that they need to be seriously reformed. With safer feeding, less dense nets and environmentally safe products being used to treat pests. If this insecticide kills bees, who knows what it will kill in what's left of our marine life. It may be a short term solution but you should be thinking about the long term impact of this on the rest of marine life, not just the ones that currently turn a profit.

To hear that you consider a very toxic and hazardous chemical agent as the answer to this multifaceted problem is deeply troubling. It is not sustainable and may lead to huge knock on effects to creatures further down the food chain which are essential for all the marine animals. I urge you to reconsider this decision, if we are to believe that the SNP government is committed to a 'green future' then we need to see you being bold and stopping these destructive practices across the board.

2

Best,
[REDACTED]

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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba: A' toirt deagh bhuaidh air beatha sluagh na h-Alba

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PDF #18:

Similar letter as PDF #3, PDF #5, PDF #7, PDF #9, PDF #11 and PDF #16

PDF #19

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform
Sent: 10 June 2021 12:31
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: JS 6574 Imidacloprid in CleanTreat

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: MICASE

Hi
MR please

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2021 12:08
To: Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform <MinisterEBLR@gov.scot>
Subject: Ref: JS 6574 Imidacloprid in CleanTreat

Dear Minister,

I wonder if you could look over the undernoted e mail that Mr Swinney has received from one of his constituents with regard to the use of CleanTreat in Scotland.

Would you be able to advise on the points raised in order that we can respond to Mr Payne.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Many thanks

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

On 27 May 2021, at 12:18, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Good morning John,

I am one of your constituents in Perthshire North and I wanted to draw your attention to the following article.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/27/novichok-for-insects-may-be-approved-for-scottish-fish-farms?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

I imagine that the named officials in the article were unaware of the ingredients in CleanTreat when offering support for the approvals, but now that imidacloprid has been identified as an ingredient I do hope that they and you will strenuously reject the use of CleanTreat in Scotland. The problems with imidacloprid are well documented and are very troubling both in terms of devastating impacts on bee populations and all aquatic creatures. Scotland has one of the most pristine natural environments in the world and introducing dangerous chemicals such as imidacloprid threaten the delicate ecosystem that sustain it.

I do hope that you share my concern and use your influence to permanently halt the approval of CleanTreat in Scotland.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PDF #20:

Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land Reform

Ministear airson Àrainneachd, Bith-iomadachd agus Ath-leasachadh Fearainn

Mairi McAllan BPA/MSP

T : 0300 244 4000

E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

John Swinney MSP

[REDACTED]



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Our Reference: 202100213670

Your Reference: JS 6574

19 July 2021

Dear John,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the use of the imidacloprid on fish farms on behalf of your constituent. I'd like to take the opportunity to correct recent media reporting that the way is being paved for its use and to provide your constituent with reassurance that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached. More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licence, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the industry are assessed and managed safely.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid, nor has it had any pre-application discussions about it.

Confusion has arisen in recent media reporting between the development by Benchmark of 'Cleantreat' which is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' which is developed by the same company. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

I hope this provides you and your constituent with the reassurance that there is no planned imminent approval for imidacloprid use in the marine environment.

Yours sincerely



MAIRI MCALLAN

PDF #21:

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 10 June 2021 08:51
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Subject: imidacloprid in CleanTreat - Constituent - [REDACTED]

Categories: Erin, MICASE

AO – [REDACTED]

iCase please.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
2N.08
St Andrews House
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] -

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 June 2021 01:29
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: Re imidacloprid in CleanTreat - Constituent - [REDACTED]

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

I wonder if you could look over the undernoted e mail that we have received from Mr Swinney's above constituent.

Would it be possible to advise on the issues raised and respond in due course?

I look forward to hearing from you

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2021 22:47
To: Swinney J (John), MSP <John.Swinney.msp@parliament.scot>
Subject: Re: imidacloprid in CleanTreat

CAUTION: This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening John,

I have yet to hear back from you on the below email. I did hear back from Murdo Fraser of the Scottish Conservatives.

Could you please at least reply to acknowledge this second email and let me know when a full reply will be provided?

Many thanks,

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

On 27 May 2021, at 12:18, [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning John,

I am one of your constituents in Perthshire North and I wanted to draw your attention to the following article.

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/27/novichok-for-insects-may-be-approved-for-scottish-fish-farms?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other

I imagine that the named officials in the article were unaware of the ingredients in CleanTreat when offering support for the approvals, but now that imidacloprid has been identified as an ingredient I do hope that they and you will strenuously reject the use of CleanTreat in Scotland. The problems with imidacloprid are well documented and are very troubling both in terms of devastating impacts on bee populations and all aquatic creatures. Scotland has one of the most pristine natural environments in the world and introducing dangerous chemicals such as imidacloprid threaten the delicate ecosystem that sustain it.

I do hope that you share my concern and use your influence to permanently halt the approval of CleanTreat in Scotland.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

PDF #22:

Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land Reform

Ministear airson Àrainneachd, Bith-iomadachd agus Ath-leasachadh Fearainn

Mairi McAllan BPA/MSP

T : 0300 244 4000

E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Richard Lochhead MSP

richard.lochhead.msp@parliament.scot



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Our Reference: 202100214178

Your Reference: Neonicotinoid chemical and the impact on bees.

15 July 2021

Dear Richard,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the use of the imidacloprid on fish farms which you sent on behalf of your constituent. I'd like to take the opportunity to correct recent media reporting that suggests the way is being paved for its use and to provide your constituent with reassurance that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached. More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licence, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the sector are assessed and managed safely.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid.

Confusion has arisen in recent media reporting between 'CleanTreat' which is a water treatment technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' both developed by the same company, Benchmark. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

I hope this provides your constituent with reassurance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maire McCallan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MAIRI MCALLAN

PDF #23:

From: Richard Lochhead MSP <richard.lochhead.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 11 June 2021 10:21
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Cc: Scottish Ministers
Subject: [REDACTED]
(Case Ref: RL32777)

Categories: MICASE

Dear Mairi

Re: [REDACTED]

I have been contacted by the above named constituent regarding neonicotinoid chemical and the impact on bees.

Please find below a copy of the correspondence I have received from [REDACTED] which, I hope, is self-explanatory.

There's an item in the Ferret newsletter this week that could be quite disturbing for Bee Keepers.

https://theferret.scot/pesticide-treatment-fish-farms-scottish-government/?vgo_ee=3FN%2BBMhhneJeh17k9FomQxHIQcvCPldi71jhxadYZk%3D

No doubt the Scottish Government have this covered but it's perception that counts and things like "one of three neonicotinoid chemicals that were banned by the European Commission in 2018 for all outdoor use on plants because the chemical could no longer be considered safe due to the identified risks to bees and according to US government scientists, imidacloprid is an environmental hazard which can be very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects or Marine Scotland's director, Annabel Turpie has backed a controversial new treatment system for farmed fish. The system is designed to be used with a pesticide which an expert warned had potentially devastating consequences for marine life, simplistic as it may be, does not read well.

We have a new neighbour who has upwards of 20 Hives in their garden and a son who keeps Bees in Orkney.

I would be grateful if you could investigate the points raised by [REDACTED] and provide me with a response that I can then share with my constituent.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

With my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Richard

Richard Lochhead MSP for Moray
80 South Street | Elgin | IV30 1JG

PDF #24:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 June 2021 12:13
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: Constituent Query from Claire Baker MSP

Dear Mairi

Please find attached a copy of the correspondence I have received regarding the use of CleanTreat within salmon farming. I share these concerns and would urge the to rejection of its use.

I would be grateful if you could inform me what your views are on this matter and if there are any plans to cease using CleanTreat.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Regards

Claire

Claire Baker MSP

[REDACTED]
on behalf of
Claire Baker MSP (Labour)

Mid Scotland and Fife Region
Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs

PDF #25:

Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land Reform
Ministear airson Àrainneachd, Bith-iomadachd agus Ath-leasachadh Fearainn
Mairi McAllan BPA/MSP

T : 0300 244 4000
E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Claire Baker MSP
[REDACTED]



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Our Reference: 202100214678
Your Reference: Constituent Query from Claire Baker MSP

5 August 2021

Dear Claire,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the use of the imidacloprid on fish farms which you sent on behalf of your constituent. With apologies for the delay in responding, I would like to take the opportunity to correct recent media reporting that suggests the way is being paved for its use and to provide your constituent with reassurance that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached. More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licence, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the sector are assessed and managed safely.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid.

Confusion has arisen in recent media reporting between 'CleanTreat' which is a water treatment technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' both developed by the same company, Benchmark. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any scheduled trials for

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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www.gov.scot



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BMK08 in Scotland.

I hope this provides you and your constituent with reassurance.

Yours sincerely

MAIRI MCALLAN

PDF #26:

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of McArthur L (Liam), MSP <Liam.McArthur.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 14 June 2021 13:00
To: Scottish Ministers
Cc: McArthur L (Liam), MSP
Subject: FAO: CabSec for Rural Affairs and Islands

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: MICASE

Dear Mairi

I have been contacted by a constituent who is concerned about possible proposals to approve the banned insecticide, Imidacloprid, for use in Scottish salmon farms.

As highlighted in an article in The Guardian on 27 May 2021, https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/may/27/novichok-for-insects-may-be-approved-for-scottish-fish-farms?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other, a series of emails, released under the Freedom of Information Act, appear to reveal the Scottish Government allegedly “smoothing the path” for CleanTreat, a system that uses the insecticide to rid farmed salmon of sea lice, to be accepted for regulatory approval in Scottish fish farms.

As you will be aware, Orkney is home to a large and growing aquaculture sector providing vital employment, especially in a number of the North Isles. While ‘sea lice’ is undoubtedly an issue the sector needs to do more to address, and innovation will be required as part of that process, I would be concerned if any solutions to the problem of ‘sea lice’ simply gave rise to different environmental difficulties.

I would therefore welcome your comments on the concerns raised in the recent Guardian article and any further reassurances you can offer my constituent about the approach being taken by the Scottish Government and its agencies.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind regards, Liam

Liam McArthur MSP
Liberal Democrat, Orkney

Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Tel: 0131 348 5815 Fax: 0131 348 5807
Constituency Office: 14 Palace Road, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1PA
Tel: 01856 876541 Fax: 01856 876162
 @Liam4Orkney  Liam McArthur MSP

PDF #27:

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus
nan Eilean
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Mairi Gougeon MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Liam McArthur MSP
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 202100215056
22 June 2021

Dear Liam,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the use of the imidacloprid on fish farms on behalf of your constituent. I'd like to take the opportunity to correct recent media reporting that the way is being paved for its use and to provide your constituent with reassurance that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached. More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licence, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the industry are assessed and managed safely.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid, nor has it had any pre-application discussions about it.

Confusion has arisen in recent media reporting between the development by Benchmark of 'Cleantreat' which is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' which is developed by the same company. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

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I hope this provides you and your constituent with the reassurance that there is no planned imminent approval for imidacloprid use in the marine environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mairi Gougeon".

Mairi Gougeon
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

PDF #28:

Repeat of PDF #45

PDF #29:

DIRECTORATE FOR MARINE SCOTLAND
DMARINE : Aquaculture and Recreational Fisheries



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202100216795

25 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 21 June 2021 regarding the use of the imidacloprid on fish farms, and for bringing this article to our attention.

We have not obtained an accurate translation of the article and therefore we are unclear if the misreporting in the article is an anomaly of the limitations in the translation used, or if the authors have not understood or checked, the source material provided by the release of information.

Confusion has clearly arisen between the development by Benchmark of 'Cleantreat' which is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of 'BMK08'; the two are not interchangeable terms but this does appear to be a misconception.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment.

In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

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ARF : Aquaculture Unit

PDF #30:

Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land Reform

Ministear airson Àrainneachd, Bith-iomadachd agus Ath-leasachadh Fearainn

Mairi McAllan BPA/MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T : 0300 244 4000

E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Alison Johnstone MSP

Our Reference: 202100221442

Your Reference: Constituent concerns RE pesticides and fish farms

27 July 2021

Dear Alison ,

Thank you for your enquiry of 06 July 2021 regarding the use of the imidacloprid on fish farms which you sent on behalf of your constituent. I'd like to take the opportunity to correct recent media reporting that suggests the way is being paved for its use and to provide your constituent with reassurance that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached. More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licence, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the sector are assessed and managed safely.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid.

Confusion has arisen in recent media reporting between 'CleanTreat' which is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' both developed by the same company, Benchmark.

Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

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www.gov.scot



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scheduled trials forBMK08 in Scotland.

I hope this provides your constituent with reassurance.

Yours sincerely



MAIRI MCALLAN

PDF #31:

From: Richard Lochhead MSP <richard.lochhead.msp@parliament.scot>
Sent: 16 July 2021 09:21
To: Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform
Cc: Scottish Ministers
Subject: FW: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (Case Ref: RL32777)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: [REDACTED], MiCase

Dear Mairi

Re: [REDACTED]

I emailed you on the 11 June on behalf of [REDACTED] and as yet I have not received a reply.

I would be grateful if you could issue a response as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to your response.

With my best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Richard

Richard Lochhead MSP for Moray
80 South Street | Elgin | IV30 1JG

t: 01343 545077 | e: Richard.Lochhead.msp@parliament.scot
Twitter: [@RichardLochhead](https://twitter.com/RichardLochhead) | facebook.com/RichardLochheadMSP

From: richard.lochhead.msp@parliament.scot

Sent: 11 June 2021 10:20

To: CabSecRAI@gov.scot

Cc: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Subject: [REDACTED] (Case Ref: RL32777)

Dear Mairi

Re: [REDACTED]

I have been contacted by the above named constituent regarding neonicotinoid chemical and the impact on bees.

Please find below a copy of the correspondence I have received from Mr & Mrs Halliday which, I hope, is self-explanatory.

There's an item in the Ferret newsletter this week that could be quite disturbing for Bee Keepers.

https://thoferret.scot/pesticide-treatment-fish-farms-scottish-government/?vgo_ee=3FN%2BBMhneJeh17k9FomQxHIQcvCPdIdi71jhxadYZk%3D

No doubt the Scottish Government have this covered but it's perception that counts and things like "one of three neonicotinoid chemicals that were banned by the European Commission in 2018 for all outdoor use on plants because the chemical could no longer be considered safe due to the identified risks to bees and according to US government scientists, imidacloprid is an environmental hazard which can be very toxic to aquatic life with long lasting effects or Marine Scotland's director, Annabel Turpie has backed a controversial new treatment system for farmed

fish. The system is designed to be used with a pesticide which an expert warned had potentially devastating consequences for marine life, simplistic as it may be, does not read well.

We have a new neighbour who has upwards of 20 Hives in their garden and a son who keeps Bees in Orkney.

I would be grateful if you could investigate the points raised by [REDACTED] and provide me with a response that I can then share with my constituent.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

With my best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Richard

Richard Lochhead MSP for Moray

80 South Street | Elgin | IV30 1JG

t: 01343 545077 | e: Richard.Lochhead.msp@parliament.scot

Twitter: [@RichardLochhead](https://twitter.com/RichardLochhead) | facebook.com/RichardLochheadMSP

PDF #32:

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 20 August 2021 10:43
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Subject: Benchmark Plc Sea Lice Medicine BMK08 - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] - [Our Ref: JS6812RA]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: [REDACTED] MICASE

For MiCase please.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
2N.08
St Andrews House
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Swinney J (John), MSP

Sent: 20 August 2021 10:40

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Benchmark Plc Sea Lice Medicine BMK08 - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - [Our Ref: JS6812RA]

Dear Mairi,

RE: [REDACTED]

I wonder if you could look over the undernoted correspondence I received from my above constituent, [REDACTED], regarding the use of sea lice medicine BMK08 in Scotland.

My constituent points to media reports about proposals to approve Benchmark Plc's well boat purification treatment, (CleanTreat®), to combat the challenge of sea lice on salmon farms.

BMK08 is the brand name for Benchmark's sea lice medicine that is applied in the purification process and media reports suggest this medicine uses the chemical imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid insecticide.

I understand imidacloprid was one of three neonicotinoid insecticides that the European Commission banned back in 2013.

Mr Showman's has environmental concerns with this medicine and is of the view the application of BMK08 would have damaging repercussions to marine life.

Several of my constituents have raised similar concerns with me before about the use of neonicotinoid insecticides and they were of the view BMK08 was harmful to bees.

I would be grateful if you could reflect on the below points raised by Mr Slowman so that I may respond back to him.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours aye,
John

Office of John Swinney MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire North
T: 01250 876576 | 17-19 Leslie St, Blairgowrie PH10 6AH

.....
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.....

Mr Swinney,

Proposed use of BMKo8 pesticide in fish farms

You are my MSP and I have read that the Scottish government may look favourably on an application to use such pesticides in the Scottish salmon fishing industry. I wondered if you had any views on this matter that you would be willing to share?

I wanted to make my position clear. I have traditionally voted SNP and hope for my country to be a predominantly sound nation when it comes to environmental matters. I am fairly certain that the use of this substance would lead to environmental degradation for short term profit. If it becomes clear that the Scottish government supports this, it would also become clear to me that the nature of the SNP is not what I thought it was. This would be a vote changer for me and I would also want to highlight this matter to anyone I could persuade to listen.

I understand that this industry is worth a lot of money, but I genuinely believe that some of the perceived value of Scotland is linked to clean air and water. If you increase the poisoning of our environment then not only are you damaging the image of Scotland you may also be doing terrible damage to marine life that cannot easily be reversed.

If any of the polluters suggest that their treatment processes will lead to the waste being harmless, I would suggest a good test would be to pay for it being desalinated and then drinking it for a few weeks. If it's not safe enough for them to do that then why would they suggest it's safe enough for marine life?

I would appreciate hearing your views.

Thanks

PDF #33:

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus
nan Eilean
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Mairi Gougeon MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

John Swinney MSP
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 202100233079

14 September 2021

Dear John,

Thank you for your email of 20 August 2021 regarding the use of imidacloprid on fish farms which you sent on behalf of your constituent Doug Slowman of Ashbank Lodge, Oakbank, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

I'd like to take the opportunity to correct recent media reporting that suggests the way is being paved for its use and to provide your constituent with reassurance that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached.

More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licence, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the sector are assessed and managed safely.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid.

Confusion has arisen in recent media reporting between 'CleanTreat' which is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' both developed by the same company, Benchmark. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

I hope this provides your constituent with reassurance.

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www.gov.scot



Yours sincerely,


MAIRI GOUGEON

PDF #34:

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Marine Scotland Mailbox
Sent: 25 August 2021 11:12
To: MiCase Mailbox; Public Engagement Unit; [REDACTED]
Cc: Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Use of 'Clean Treat' technology (Case Ref: PM376)

Categories: [REDACTED] MICASE

AO – [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]

PEU colleagues, would this go through yourselves for adding to MiCase?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Marine Scotland Blog](#) | [@marinescotland](#) | [Marine Scotland Flickr](#) | www.gov.scot/marinescotland

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Minister for Environment and Land Reform
Sent: 18 October 2021 09:07
To: Public Engagement Unit
Subject: FW: Imidacloprid Concerns
Attachments: 20211015 Mairi McAllan Imidacloprid.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: [REDACTED] MICASE

MR please

From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Burgess A (Ariane), MSP
Sent: 15 October 2021 16:23
To: Minister for Environment and Land Reform <MinisterELR@gov.scot>
Subject: Imidacloprid Concerns

Dear Mairi McAllan,

Please find the letter attached detailing concerns with the insecticide Imidacloprid from Ariane Burgess.

I look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PDF #37:

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus
nan Eilean
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Mairi Gougeon MSP



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

T: 0300 244 4000

E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Ariane Burgess MSP
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Our ref: 202100248468

8 November 2021

Dear Ariane,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October 2021 regarding the use of imidacloprid on fish farms about which constituents and campaigners have contacted you.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached.

More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licences, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the sector are assessed and managed safely.

As you note in your letter, SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid.

Confusion has arisen in media reporting between 'CleanTreat' which is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' both developed by the same company, Benchmark. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

I hope this provides you with reassurance.

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IN PEOPLE

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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mairi Gougeon'.
MAIRI GOUGEON

PDF #38:

25.10.2021

Dear Mairi McAllan

Neonicotinoids in fish farming.

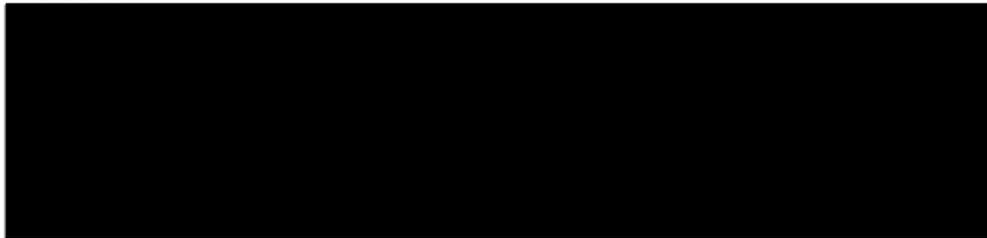
We read with concern recently about a potential application to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency from Benchmark, a fish farm biotech company which produces Imidacloprid, a highly toxic neonicotinoid (Letters: Vetrecord, 9/16 October 2021). Although Benchmark have not yet made the application for approved use in Scotland's salmon industry, it seems that with the successful introduction of the pesticide into Norway's fish farming industry and therefore sale throughout the EU, there is likely to be strong pressure on the Scottish regulator to approve it as well.

With the derogation of the ban ^{on neonicotinoids} for use as a sugar beet seed dressing, we are concerned that there may be the potential for pressure and advanced lobbying for acceptance prior to official approval, by the fish farming industry as well as the company itself. This lobbying might be on the grounds that it is already licenced for use in the EU via a trade agreement with Norway, or that it is safe to use, which is not known due to lack of appraisal based on the precautionary principle.

Whatever the form a potential application may take, we feel that UK consumers would need to know that this potent neurotoxin can be fatal to a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates following exposure to just a few nanograms. Particularly so in the marine environment where little is known about its long term impact, as it persists for months or years in the absence of sunlight, with the potential for accumulation in marine sediments and subsequent destruction of ecosystems.

We urge you to look out for underhand lobbying and hope that any potential application will be turned down.

Yours and best wishes



PDF #39:

DIRECTORATE FOR MARINE SCOTLAND
DMARINE : Aquaculture and Recreational Fisheries



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Our Reference: 202100255869

13 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your letter of 25 October 2021 to Mairi McAllan MSP, Minister for Environment and Land Reform regarding the use of imidacloprid on fish farms. I have been asked to respond.

I'd like to take the opportunity to correct media reporting, that suggests the way is being paved for imidacloprid use, and to provide you with reassurance that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached.

As you note in your letter, SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid.

More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licences, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the sector are assessed and managed safely.

Yours sincerely

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[REDACTED]
ARF : Aquaculture Unit

PDF #40:



15th November 2021

Dear *Maini McAllan MSP*

Neonicotinoids in fish farming.

We read with concern recently about a potential application to the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency from Benchmark, a fish farm biotech company which produces Imidacloprid, a highly toxic neonicotinoid (Letters: Vetrecord, 9/16 October 2021). Although Benchmark have not yet made the application for approved use in Scotland's salmon industry, it seems that with the successful introduction of the pesticide into Norway's fish farming industry and therefore sale throughout the EU, there is likely to be strong pressure on the Scottish regulator to approve it as well.

With the derogation of the ban for use as a sugar beet seed dressing, we are concerned that there may be the potential for pressure and advanced lobbying for acceptance prior to official approval, by the fish farming industry as well as the company itself. This lobbying might be on the grounds that it is already licenced for use in the EU via a trade agreement with Norway, or that it is safe to use, which is not known due to lack of appraisal based on the precautionary principle.

Whatever the form a potential application may take, we feel that UK consumers would need to know that this potent neurotoxin can be fatal to a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates following exposure to just a few nanograms. Particularly so in the marine environment where little is known about its long term impact, as it persists for months or years in the absence of sunlight, with the potential for accumulation in marine sediments and subsequent destruction of ecosystems.

We urge you to look out for underhand lobbying and hope that any potential application will be turned down.

Yours and best wishes



PDF #41:

DIRECTORATE FOR MARINE SCOTLAND
DMARINE : Aquaculture and Recreational Fisheries



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202100266527

30 December 2021

Dear [REDACTED],

Neonicotinoids in Fish Farming

Thank you for your letter of 15 November 2021 to Mairi McAllan MSP, Minister for Environment and Land Reform regarding the use of neonicotinoids, specifically imidacloprid, in fish farming. I have been asked to respond and I apologise for the delay.

I'd like to take the opportunity to correct media reporting that suggests the way is being paved for imidacloprid use, and to provide you with reassurance that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment.

In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached.

Our understanding is that, to date, SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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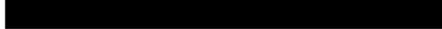


More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licences, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the sector are assessed and managed safely. I hope this provides you with some reassurance.

Yours sincerely


ARF : Aquaculture Unit

PDF #42:

From:  on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 20 August 2021 10:43
To: Public Engagement Unit
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Subject: Benchmark Plc Sea Lice Medicine BMK08 - 
 - [Our Ref: JS6812RA]

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories:  MICASE

For MiCase please.



From: [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Swinney J (John), MSP

Sent: 20 August 2021 10:40

To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Benchmark Plc Sea Lice Medicine BMK08 - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] - [Our Ref: JS6812RA]

Dear Mairi,

RE: [REDACTED]

I wonder if you could look over the undernoted correspondence I received from my above constituent, [REDACTED], regarding the use of sea lice medicine BMK08 in Scotland.

My constituent points to media reports about proposals to approve Benchmark Plc's well boat purification treatment, (CleanTreat®), to combat the challenge of sea lice on salmon farms.

BMK08 is the brand name for Benchmark's sea lice medicine that is applied in the purification process and media reports suggest this medicine uses the chemical imidacloprid, a neonicotinoid insecticide.

I understand imidacloprid was one of three neonicotinoid insecticides that the European Commission banned back in 2013.

[REDACTED] has environmental concerns with this medicine and is of the view the application of BMK08 would have damaging repercussions to marine life.

Several of my constituents have raised similar concerns with me before about the use of neonicotinoid insecticides and they were of the view BMK08 was harmful to bees.

I would be grateful if you could reflect on the below points raised by [REDACTED] so that I may respond back to him.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours aye,
John

Office of John Swinney MSP
Member of the Scottish Parliament for Perthshire North
T: 01250 876576 | 17-19 Leslie St, Blairgowrie PH10 6AH

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Mr Swinney,

Proposed use of BMKo8 pesticide in fish farms

You are my MSP and I have read that the Scottish government may look favourably on an application to use such pesticides in the Scottish salmon fishing industry. I wondered if you had any views on this matter that you would be willing to share?

I wanted to make my position clear. I have traditionally voted SNP and hope for my country to be a predominantly sound nation when it comes to environmental matters. I am fairly certain that the use of this substance would lead to environmental degradation for short term profit. If it becomes clear that the Scottish government supports this, it would also become clear to me that the nature of the SNP is not what I thought it was. This would be a vote changer for me and I would also want to highlight this matter to anyone I could persuade to listen.

I understand that this industry is worth a lot of money, but I genuinely believe that some of the perceived value of Scotland is linked to clean air and water. If you increase the poisoning of our environment then not only are you damaging the image of Scotland you may also be doing terrible damage to marine life that cannot easily be reversed.

If any of the polluters suggest that their treatment processes will lead to the waste being harmless, I would suggest a good test would be to pay for it being desalinated and then drinking it for a few weeks. If it's not safe enough for them to do that then why would they suggest it's safe enough for marine life?

I would appreciate hearing your views.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

PDF #43:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 May 2021 11:46
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: MS-LOT - FoI/EIR - Copy of The Ferret article published 21 May 2021 linked to EIR 202100195003 - 24 May 2021

Categories: [REDACTED]

This is the content.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 May 2021 11:09

To: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: FYI -ferret article

I think it just went online late yesterday and copied below in case behind a pay wall for you. They have FOI pdfs etc on website.

<https://theferret.scot/pesticide-treatment-fish-farms-scottish-government/>

The Scottish Government is paving the way for the multinational salmon farming industry to start using a toxic pesticide blamed for killing bees, according to internal emails seen by The Ferret.

[Marine Scotland](#)'s director, Annabel Turpie, has backed a controversial new treatment system for farmed fish. The system is designed to be used with a pesticide which an expert warned had "potentially devastating consequences for marine life".

Turpie told colleagues she would "help with engagement" with environmental regulators so the treatment could "navigate through the system". In March she was briefed by officials to tell a fish farming company that an application to use the treatment would be given "welcomed consideration".

Campaigners have accused the government of "meddling at the highest level" and putting "commercial gain ahead of environmental protection". They have urged the industry to get off a "relentless chemical treadmill".

The PDF continues by enclosing the whole of the article in The Ferret:

[Bee-killing pesticide treatment for fish farms backed by Scottish Government \(theferret.scot\)](#)

PDF #44:

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 27 May 2021 20:31
To: [REDACTED] Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport; Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform; Carmichael DB (Donald); Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox; [REDACTED]; Carmichael DB (Donald); [REDACTED]; DG Economy; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Communications Rural Economy & Environment; [REDACTED]; Spads Admin
Subject: MS-LOT - FOI/EIR - The Ferret - Cabinet Secretary informed - 27 May 2021
Categories: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ms Gougeon has noted.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 May 2021 16:24
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform <MinisterEBLR@gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Spads Admin <Spads_Admin@gov.scot>
Subject: press coverage

Cabinet Secretary,

To be aware that a story relating to the use of a controversial chemical in the treatment of sea lice is gathering momentum in the press. Originating from an FOI request, the 'Ferret' (which reflects polarised anti-fish farming interests) ran a story over the weekend regarding how SG has been instrumental in paving the way for the use of an imidacloprid chemical, seeking to circumnavigate due regulatory processes. We alerted you to this story on 19 May with press lines for clearance. The story has been picked up and the Guardian published a similar article today.

The stories contains significant inaccuracies that are largely built around the anti-fish farming lobby narrative.

Background

- The innovation company Benchmark is developing a water treatment system called Cleantreat which purifies fish treatment water before release into the marine environment. Benchmark intends for it to be used alongside a new imidacloprid-based sea lice treatment BNK08 and is trialling in Norway, but it has stated publically that there are no current plans to bring forth BNK08 in Scotland.
- We are aware of discussions between Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) and Benchmark regarding trials of the Cleantreat technology alongside another chemical already in use based on previous advice from SEPA. The trials will inform later applications for use of Cleantreat in Scotland, should Benchmark decide make an application to SEPA. We do not expect an application to include Cleantreat partnered with BKN08. A formal agreement has not yet been signed by Benchmark and Cleantreat and therefore details of the Cleantreat trial are not yet in public domain.

Media focus

- The press articles focus on introducing imadacloprid and is therefore unfounded. SEPA has not received no application to use imidacloprid, nor has it had any pre-application discussions.
- Information released under FOI relates to internal discussion and briefing about our awareness of potential Cleantreat trials and a request by SAIC to help navigate Cleantreat though the regulatory system. This has been interpreted as seeking to influence regulatory processes.
- Innovation within aquaculture is important to further sustainability and the economy, and we have a role in providing procedural and technical guidance to third sector companies if they require it. Regulatory approval of chemical use and discharge is subject to rigorous and robust assessment to ensure environmental impacts are managed safely. Assessment is robust and independent and there is no exception to this. Our lines from last week (email is attached for ease) make this clear.

Comms

Given the nature of the articles, we have discussed next steps with comms. They advise that to seek correction from the paper risks fuelling the story further. However they will contact the journalist involved to reiterate our lines and to mitigate against any further follow up stories.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PDF #45:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 June 2021 10:13
To: Scottish Ministers; Fergus Ewing; Mairi.McAllan.msp@parliament.scot; Gougeon M (Mairi), MSP; Ben Macpherson; Kate Forbes; MSP; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox
Cc: [REDACTED] Ruskell M (Mark), MSP; Beamish C (Claudia), MSP; EnvironmentClimateChangeandLandReformcommittee; Mountain E (Edward), MSP; Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee; [REDACTED]; Media
Subject: "Shameful" Marine Scotland reports Chilean newspaper on use of banned neonicotinoid in Scottish salmon farming
Categories: MiCase

AC [REDACTED]

Please note that the Chilean newspaper reported on Friday (18 June 2021) on the Scottish Government's support for the use of the banned neonicotinoid Imidacloprid - dubbed 'Novichok for insects' - in salmon farming in Scotland:

[Salmoneras: empresa noruega busca comercializar en Chile pesticida prohibido por la UE por ser "muy tóxico" para la vida acuática](#)

The article in the newspaper *Interferencia* includes:

Annabel Turpie, directora de *Marine Scotland* – agencia gubernamental escocesa encargada de las pesqueras– explica que “ayudaremos a colaborar con SEPA (Agencia de Protección Ambiental de Escocia) y MSS (*Marine Scotland Science*) en la tecnología CleanTreat”.

Turpie asegura estar "consciente de que la intención es que *CleanTreat* se presente en la segunda mitad del año, asumiendo la aprobación regulatoria", habiendo una "expectativa" de que Benchmark, la empresa noruega que arribó a Chile en 2020 y fabricante de *CleanTreat*, llevara el sistema a un sitio existente "para su aprobación". Más adelante, la directora de *Marine Scotland* indicó que la tecnología de la empresa recibiría una "bienvenida consideración".

Turpie, catalogó de "vergonzoso" el lobby ejercido por la representante del gobierno escocés. "La directora de *Marine Scotland* fue sorprendida haciendo lobby no para el medioambiente marino, sino para el uso de un neonicotinoide peligroso para aguas escocesas".

Rough English translation via [Interferencia: "Salmon Farming - Norwegian company seeks to commercialize in Chile a pesticide banned by the EU for being 'very toxic' to aquatic life"](#)

Scottish Salmon Watch also [reported last week](#) (17 June 2021) on how the Norwegian Government's Directorate of Fisheries had supported clinical field trials of D-10 Aquatic Blast (Imidacloprid) at two salmon farms in Norway. FOI requests filed with various Norwegian Government agencies and salmon farming companies (who are subject to the Environmental Information Act in Norway) cited an email from

a Member of the Scottish Parliament (the sender's name was redacted but it is understood to be sent by Fergus Ewing who is seen bullying/lobbying for the use of Imidacloprid in Scottish waters):

From: [@parliament.scot](#)>
Sent: 22 August 2019 14:19
To: Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy <CabSecRE@gov.scot>
Cc: [@gov.scot](#)>
Subject: Early Meeting with Benchmark

An early meeting was requested by Benchmark and I agreed. Can this be set up at their Edinburgh office please.

They are trialling their new vessel in Norway which is hugely disappointing. They do however want to do this in Scotland, and therefore purpose of the meeting is to go over the position and see what the barriers to trialling in Scotland have been and see about overcoming these barriers as a matter of urgency.

This is sensitive as we are in my opinion exposed now for failing to enable the trialling of the Cleantreat system here - but we have the chance to put that right. Benchmark picked up the innovation awarded at Aquanor - and this is effectively the awarded for the best innovation in the world in Aquaculture. If successful, it has the potential to be game changing and help us overcome the negative press and answer even more effectively the persistent critics of the sector.

As aquaculture Minister I need to be able to see the worlds greatest innovator innovate here and not only in Norway!

Read more via [Anyone for Norwegian Salmon Marinaded in the Banned Neonicotinoid Imidacloprid \(don't worry it's ASC-approved\)?!](#)

Best fishes,

■

PDF #46:

From: [REDACTED]@bvajournals.com>
Sent: 16 August 2021 08:25
To: Marine Scotland Mailbox
Subject: CleanTreat technology in Scotland? – request for comment/info

Hello,

I hope you're well.

We're hoping to cover the topic of Benchmark's CleanTreat/Ectosan Vet treatment in *Vet Record* in some way and would like to give Marine Scotland the opportunity to comment.

Following the recent authorisation and launch of CleanTreat in Norway this month, do you think there is any scope for this advancing in Scottish aquaculture? As far as we can gather, documents obtained by The Ferret and The Private Eye suggest that there was correspondence between Marine Scotland and Benchmark Holdings about the CleanTreat system a year or so ago – are you able to say whether these discussions have advanced at all or whether they have been halted?

Please let me know by the end of the day.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks and best wishes,

[REDACTED]

BVA staff are currently working remotely.

Email: [REDACTED]@bvajournals.com

Web: www.bva.co.uk

British Veterinary Association
7 Mansfield Street | London | W1G 9NQ



PDF #47:

From: Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 May 2021 13:36
To: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; King [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; M [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; DG Economy <DG_Economy@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: - fish farm pesticide - Ferret - Guardian for info

2

I think we used some wording last time around about the general and quite proper role of government in promoting/ facilitating innovation without prejudice to regulatory processes/ decisions?

D

From: Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 May 2021 13:31
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; DG Economy <DG_Economy@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: - fish farm pesticide - Ferret - Guardian for info

Thanks [REDACTED]

The framing around 'SG apparently paving the way for the trials...' which obviously refers to the emails released under FOI. What's your view on whether there is anything that we should be considering as lines to take given the implication that SG would be trying to interfere with SEPA? I think the lines from SEPA are very clear about their independent role

Thx

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 May 2021 13:18
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications Rural Economy & Environment <CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; DG Economy <DGEconomy@gov.scot>

Subject: - fish farm pesticide - Ferret - Guardian for info

Hi just to flag to colleagues following on from coverage in the Ferret last week, SEPA have been in touch to say that the Guardian is following this up. Info below

Hi I'm writing a story today about the Scottish government apparently paving the way for the trials/use/potential regulations of a sea lice treatment, containing the banned neonicotinoid, Imidacloprid, in salmon farms in Scotland. I am aware that you have responded to a website about the issue - so may have lines available. I would be grateful if you could send me your response as soon as possible and at the latest by 3pm today.

Can you let me know you have received this email and whether you can respond in time? Thanks so much

QUESTIONS

Can you please tell me if there have been any applications for trials or use of Cleantreat, a new system of treatment, by Benchmark, or any pre-application discussions? Also, can you please tell me what authorisation would be required by SEPA for a discharge into the environment of any pesticide? And thirdly, do you have limits for the pesticide Imidacloprid for discharge into the aquatic environment?

A spokesperson for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) said:

“As Scotland’s independent environmental regulator, SEPA’s Aquaculture Sector Plan outlines our vision for the sector. SEPA has had no pre-application discussions, nor received an application to discharge imidacloprid, either as part of a trial or otherwise, from Benchmark Holdings or any other company.

“Trials of any new medicine that would involve a discharge of residues into the environment would require authorisation, and discharges into the sea from land, fish pens or wellboats require a permit from SEPA.”

Note

- SEPA’s role, as Scotland’s independent environmental regulator, is to ensure that any proposed discharges to coastal waters of medicine residues will comply with environmental standards.
- The time we take to determine any application depends on the quality of the information supplied by the applicant and the time needed to properly take account of this information and the information provided in the consultation process.
- If an application is made to discharge a new medicine we require, among other things, the applicant to provide the scientific evidence necessary to identify the no effect concentration for that medicine in the environment, and information on how they will ensure that this concentration is met. The application will then be subject to public consultation prior to us determining whether to grant or refuse authorisation

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism
Sent: 19 May 2021 16:06
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
<CabSecECCLR@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Tourism <CabSecRET@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald)
<Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox <Directormarinescotland@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Communications Rural Economy & Environment
<CommunicationsRuralEconomy&Environment@gov.scot>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Ga [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; DG Economy
<DGEconomy@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Clearance: media query - fish farm pesticide - Ferret

[REDACTED]

Ms Gougeon is content.

Thanks

[REDACTED]
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
[REDACTED]

"This includes robust assessment by independent regulators such as SEPA and there are no exceptions to this.

"Any use of the new medicine imidacloprid would require authorisation from SEPA, which has received no application to use imidacloprid, nor has it had any pre-application discussions about this."

Original Query

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for agreeing to help with a query for an article I am writing for The Ferret. I would be grateful if you could get back to me as soon as possible before 2pm tomorrow (Wednesday), and I would appreciate an acknowledgement of this email.

Emails released by the Scottish Government under freedom of information law suggest that the government has been trying to open the way for agreement to use a new pesticide at salmon farms. The aquaculture company, Benchmark, is expected to make an application to trial the use of the neonicotinoid, imidacloprid, in a "CleanTreat" process to kill sea lice at a Scottish salmon farm. Imidacloprid was banned for outdoor use on plants by the European Commission in 2018 because of the risks it poses to bees.

In one email to officials on 1 March 2021 the director of Marine Scotland, Annabel Turpie, said: "I've said we'll help with engagement with Sepa and MSS (Marine Scotland Science) on the CleanTreat technology." In another email on 10 March 2021, Turpie referred to actions of the board of the government's Sustainable Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) "around support to navigate CleanTreat through the system".

Minutes of an SAIC meeting on 24 February 2021 report that the board agreed that CleanTreat "had strong commercial relevance and potential to support regulatory innovation, and was therefore fundable. Annabel Turpie said she was keen for Marine Scotland/Marine Scotland Science to be involved in future discussions with Sepa on this project."

Other emails suggest that Turpie was due to meet with Scottish Sea Farms on 9 March 2021. A briefing on 8 March to prepare her for the meeting suggested she should take this line:

"We can't circumnavigate SEPA's consideration as they have to follow legal process, but there is a newly invigorated dedication within SG and across regulators to support innovation in the aquaculture sector - am confident this will be given welcomed consideration when an application is received."

The anti-fish-farming campaigner, [REDACTED], who obtained the emails, said:

"It seems that the Scottish Government is only too happy to smooth the passage for imidacloprid use in salmon farming in Scotland even before the results of field trials in Norway and environmental risks assessments have been published. This is the antithesis of the precautionary principle and smacks of the Scottish Government putting commercial gain ahead of environmental protection. Surely the public has a right to know before the floodgates are opened to a banned neonicotinoid?"

What comments would the Scottish Government and Annabel Turpie like to make? Comments by email as soon as possible before 2pm tomorrow would be much appreciated.

Many thanks for your help.

PDF #48:

AFH GROUP LEADER MEETING - AGENDA AND ACTIONS			
Attendees:	Attendees:	Meeting Date:	2 nd June 2021
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		
[REDACTED]			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ [REDACTED]■ [REDACTED]<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ [REDACTED]■ [REDACTED]<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ [REDACTED]■ [REDACTED]<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ [REDACTED]■ [REDACTED]■ [REDACTED]<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ [REDACTED]■ [REDACTED]			
FHI			

FHI

[REDACTED]

There has been significant e-mail traffic regarding the 'Clean Treat' system and the use of imidacloprid. Clarification has been provided that the former is a filtration system, the latter is an active ingredient in ectoparasitic veterinary treatments for companion animals and also proposed as a sea lice treatment. This is primarily an issue for SEPA and the VMD, but policy colleagues are also involved in the discussion.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PDF #49:

[REDACTED]
Sent:
To:
Cc:
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
24 March 2021 20:09
Director of Marine Scotland Mailbox; Carmichael DB (Donald)
[REDACTED]

Annabel, Donald,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PDF #51:

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform
Sent: 23 June 2021 14:00
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform <MinisterEBLR@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid in CleanTreat - Constituent - [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Given the focus on the impact of these chemicals to the natural environment – looks to be one for Ms McAllan to respond to, as long as Ms Gougeon is sighted and happy with that approach.

Thanks

[REDACTED] **Private Secretary to Màiri McAllan MSP, Minister for Environment, Biodiversity and Land Reform** The Scottish Government | Web: www.gov.scot
[REDACTED] Email: MinisterEBLR@gov.scot

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 23 June 2021 13:06
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform <MinisterEBLR@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid in CleanTreat - Constituent - [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

Grateful for a final views on the request below.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Scottish Government

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot> **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Sent: 21 June 2021 12:21
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>; Minister for Environment, Biodiversity & Land reform <MinisterEBLR@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid in CleanTreat - Constituent - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mr Ewing previously dealt with CleanTreat through his responsibility for aquaculture, which now falls to Ms Gougeon. Although it did have strong links to SEPA which I presume falls to Ms McAllan.

Not particularly helpful response but copying Ms McAllan's office who may have a view.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 June 2021 12:13
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands <CabSecRAI@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid in CleanTreat - Constituent - [REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

We received 2 identical MR's from [REDACTED] (below) – one for Ms Mairi Gougeon and the other to Ms Mairi McAllan regarding concerns of use of imidacloprid in fish farm operations. Last week we responded to a PQ on the same subject – at the time it was felt that it would sit more with Ms McAllan's portfolio. Hence I would suggest to maintain Ms McAllan as the respondent and delete the second request, but I would be grateful for your thoughts

Kind regards

[REDACTED]



[As an aside – here's a [Parliamentary Question and reply](#):



Chamber and committees

Question ref. S6W-00511

Asked by: Pauline McNeill, Glasgow, Scottish Labour

Date lodged: 7 June 2021

Question

To ask the Scottish Government what discussions it has held regarding the possible introduction of the insecticide, imidacloprid, on fish farms, and what less toxic treatments have been considered as an alternative.

Current status: Answered by Mairi McAllan on 21 June 2021

Answer

Scottish Government, along with the UK Veterinary Medicines Directorate and Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), met with Benchmark in 2019 and 2020 to describe the regulatory requirements for any proposal which may come forward to use or release imidacloprid based treatments in the marine environment. No applications have subsequently been made for imidacloprid use or release.

PDF #52:

From: [REDACTED] SEPA.org.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2021 13:23
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid

Hi [REDACTED]

See enclosed for some comments, suggested amendments from our end.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2021 00:39
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@SEPA.org.uk> [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: imidacloprid

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

All,

Thanks very much to you all for input to [REDACTED] queries on the SG position on imidacloprid use so far.

For background to the SPICe request, the Ferret and later The Guardian recently ran an article saying that information received under FOI indicated that Marine Scotland officials were paving the way for use of imidacloprid as a sea lice medicine in aquaculture. In fact, the information released related to 'Cleantreat' i.e. a water purification system which is being developed to remove medicines from treatment water prior to discharge. The company developing cleantreat has also developed an imidacloprid based medicine for use in tandem with cleantreat, but trials are underway in Norway on this coupling and not scheduled for scotland as the company involved has confirmed in the press.

While this is the background to why SPICe needs information, the actual question posed is 'what is SG policy on imidacloprid use' which takes us away from aquaculture and into the unknown.

I have managed to confuse myself over the basis of the EU ruling, and terminology re 'approval' so I'd be grateful for any clarity you can give to the attached. If none can clarify we'll seek comment from VMD.

A cheeky request for **comment by lunchtime today would be hugely appreciated.**

I will only be working periodically so grateful if you can copy [REDACTED] into responses.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PDF #53:

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 04 June 2021 09:41

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: imidacloprid

Thanks [REDACTED]
I'm going through the document just now.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Veterinary and Science Team,
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Delivery Directorate
The Scottish Government, Saughton House, P Spur
Broomhouse Drive, EDINBURGH, EH11 3XD.

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2021 09:40
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid

[redacted] may know more from the Vet Medicines side, but I suspect “approvals” covers different things. So VMD are the regulatory body for veterinary medicines, but the EU withdrawal of “approval as a plant protection product was under a separate jurisdiction. [redacted] may be able to advise if VMD approve or authorise veterinary medicines.

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@sasa.gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2021 09:15
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]>

1

[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid

Hello, some comments in the attached, let me know if you need anything else, thanks, [redacted]

[redacted]
SASA
Scottish Government
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK
[redacted] | **W:** www.sasa.gov.uk

SASA is a Division of the Scottish Government Directorate for Agriculture & the Rural Economy

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 04 June 2021 00:38:59 (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: imidacloprid

All,

Thanks very much to you all for input to [REDACTED] queries on the SG position on imidacloprid use so far.

For background to the SPICe request, the Ferret and later The Guardian recently ran an article saying that information received under FOI indicated that Marine Scotland officials were paving the way for use of imidacloprid as a sea lice medicine in aquaculture. In fact, the information released related to 'Cleantreat' i.e. a water purification system which is being developed to remove medicines from treatment water prior to discharge. The company developing cleantreat has also developed an imidacloprid based medicine for use in tandem with cleantreat, but trials are underway in Norway on this coupling and not scheduled for Scotland as the company involved has confirmed in the press.

While this is the background to why SPICe needs information, the actual question posed is 'what is SG policy on imidacloprid use' which takes us away from aquaculture and into the unknown.

I have managed to confuse myself over the basis of the EU ruling, and terminology re 'approval' so I'd be grateful for any clarity you can give to the attached. If none can clarify we'll seek comment from VMD.

A cheeky request for comment by lunchtime today would be hugely appreciated.

I will only be working periodically so grateful if you can copy [REDACTED] into responses.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PDF #54:

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2021 14:20
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted]@SEPA.org.uk'
[redacted]@SEPA.org.uk>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid

Hi [redacted]
Minor change from me,
Thanks,
[redacted]

[redacted]

Veterinary and Science Team,
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Delivery Directorate
The Scottish Government, Saughton House, P Spur
Broomhouse Drive, EDINBURGH, EH11 3XD.

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2021 14:15
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted]@SEPA.org.uk'
[redacted]@SEPA.org.uk>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid
Importance: High

All
Apologies for the extra request but I attach an almost clean version (comments remain) for a further review as I am aware that some edits were made on different versions of the same document.

Kind regards



From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2021 11:15
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid

Hi [REDACTED]

I've added a couple of thoughts to tie the various authorisations together.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2021 10:54
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid

Hello [REDACTED]

Tracked changes added to [REDACTED]

For info, the European Medicines Agency set maximum residue limits for Imidacloprid in Fin fish in 2020. [Imidacloprid 004481-FULL-0002 - Summary of opinion \(europa.eu\)](https://www.europa.eu)

This is one of the steps before applying for a marketing authorisation, and I am not sighted on whether an application has been made to VMD.

Imidacloprid does not currently have a marketing authorisation for use in fish according to the VMD product information database.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Veterinary and Science Team,
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Delivery Directorate
The Scottish Government, Saughton House, P Spur
Broomhouse Drive, EDINBURGH, EH11 3XD.

PDF #55:

From: [REDACTED]@SEPA.org.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2021 13:52
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid

OFFICIAL – BUSINESS

Hi [REDACTED]

I think it is important reference them as regulatory requirements, guidelines could be misinterpreted to suggests a flexibility that isn't really present.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2021 13:44
To: [REDACTED]@SEPA.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: FW: imidacloprid
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED] thank you,

In case you are not aware - We received a previous version of the document with comments from [REDACTED] (attached).

So I would really grateful if you can let me know which version you prefer?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

 Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

[REDACTED]

PDF #56:

From: [REDACTED]@SEPA.org.uk>
Sent: 04 June 2021 16:30
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid

OFFICIAL – BUSINESS

I think content, although formatting was maybe awry in last version, I saw attached around media coverage heading.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 04 June 2021 14:33
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot; [REDACTED]@SEPA.org.uk>
Subject: RE: imidacloprid

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]

Happy for my interests if [REDACTED] is.

[REDACTED]

PDF #57:

From: [REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot>
Sent: 27 May 2021 19:44
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: E - SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval - [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Yes, you can say that there are no current approvals for agricultural or horticultural use of imidacloprid in the UK.

Or, to cover all bases, you could say that imidacloprid is not currently approved in the UK as a plant protection product.

Is approved as a vet medicine as you say.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 May 2021 19:40
To: [REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: E - SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval - [REDACTED]

Am reading the request again [REDACTED] and thinking that while it has clearly been prompted by the press coverage with regards to fish farms, the request is in relation to SG policy on imidacloprid, so we may have to widen out. From your perspective can we say that

With regards to agriculture (and horticulture??) there are no current approvals for imidacloprid use?

I'll check with vets etc too.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2021 17:52
To: [REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: E - SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval - [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Yes [REDACTED] you've found it the right home .

I'll liaise with SPICe.

Just for info, there is no factual basis to the story – there has been no application for the use of imidacloprid approval.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sasa.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot)>

Sent: 27 May 2021 17:42

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@gov.scot)>

Subject: FW: E - SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval - [REDACTED]

Importance: High

Hello,

I'm trying to find the right recipient for this enquiry and [REDACTED] kindly pointed me in your direction.

Please see below an enquiry from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre about imidacloprid approval, which has come to us as we have responsibility for agricultural pesticides but based on the media coverage (and the fact that there are no current approvals for crops) assume it is in relation to potential use in fish health.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
SASA

Scottish Government

Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK

[REDACTED] | **W:** www.sasa.gov.uk

From: CEU@gov.scot <CEU@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 May 2021 16:28
To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@sasa.gov.scot](mailto:[REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot)>
Subject: E - SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval - [REDACTED]
Importance: High

Good afternoon

The email enquiry below was received at the Central Enquiry Unit today.

I would be grateful if you would deal with this or forward it to the appropriate person / area of business.

You may wish to acknowledge receipt of this email to the enquirer.

2

Thank you

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Central Enquiry Unit

From: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>
Sent: 27 May 2021 16:14
To: Central Enquiry Unit <CEU@gov.scot>
Subject: SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval



Good afternoon

I am contacting you from SPICe, the Scottish Parliament's Information Centre, where we deal with enquiries from MSPs and their staff. I have received an enquiry from the office of an MSP which I'd be grateful for your help with.

My enquirer would like to know what the Scottish Government's current position is regarding the potential approval of the insecticide, imidacloprid.

My deadline for this enquiry is 4 June so a response before this date would be very much appreciated.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot

PDF #58:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 May 2021 17:56
To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot
Subject: insecticide approval

[REDACTED]

To confirm that I have received your request and will respond next week if that's OK.

We'll provide a written response but if you need to discuss any aspect of this I would be pleased to do this.

[REDACTED]

PDF #59:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 June 2021 20:46
To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: insecticide approval

[REDACTED]

Sincere apologies for the delay in getting back to you . I hope this does not inconvenience you or your enquirer too much.

Please find attached a note outlining SG's position on the use of imidacloprid. While it is likely that the enquirer's interest follows recent media coverage on alleged intent to use imidacloprid in the marine environment, the note relates to the position on imidacloprid use across a number of interests.

Please do not hesitate to ask for further information if needed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 03 June 2021 11:18
To: [REDACTED]@parliament.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: insecticide approval

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[REDACTED]

Just wanted to provide you an update on this. While the query was undoubtedly prompted by recent media coverage claiming that imidachloprid was being considered for use in the marine environment, the nature of the enquiry means that we are working across a number of different gov divisions to provide a consolidated SG position. This is introducing a time delay on top of the bank holiday. I expect to get something to you by the end of today, but it may extend into tomorrow. I hope this does not cause you too many difficulties and I'm happy to discuss if it does.

[REDACTED]

PDF #60:

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 June 2021 12:42
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: E - SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval - [REDACTED]

All – I hesitate to involve too many colleagues but [REDACTED] covers veterinary medicines (a reserved field, so not a devolved SG responsibility) and [REDACTED] covers Bee Health. I recognise Imidacloprid as the active ingredient in a few flea control “Spot On” type products for dogs, cats and rabbits, but the EU ban was based on the threat of this agent, from horticultural / crop use, to Bee health in 2018. I suspect that the enquirer will be focussed on the horticultural, bee health and fish health sectors

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED],
Animal Health and Welfare Division,
Agriculture and Rural Economy Directorate,
Scottish Government,
Saughton House,
Broomhouse Drive,
Edinburgh EH11 3XD,

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 June 2021 11:51
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: E - SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Would you be able to help [REDACTED] on whether there is an SG position on the use of imidacloprid. It appears to be an insecticide but is there a possibility that it has a medicinal use, and if that is the case it may have already been approve.

A quick google search shows the chemical to be one of a trio of neonicotinoid that has been banned by EU in 2018, although commercial growers may continue to use them in enclosed greenhouses. (according to ‘Garden Organic’ <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/neonicotinoids>). I've copied [REDACTED] for interest and any information she may have.

Thanks and best wishes

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 June 2021 11:14
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: E - SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval - [REDACTED]

Good morning [REDACTED]

3

Not sure who I should contact with the following enquiry, but I would be grateful for your steer. Last Thursday we received the following email from our colleagues from SASA. While it has clearly been prompted by the press coverage with regards to fish farms, the request is in relation to SG policy on imidacloprid, so I am hoping to identify whether the imidacloprid has any medicinal use in the veterinary world and any relevant policy position.

The deadline for the SPICE's response is 4 June.

Many thanks in advance

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sasa.gov.scot>
Sent: 27 May 2021 17:42
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: E - SPICe enquiry: Insecticide approval - [REDACTED]
Importance: High

Hello,

I'm trying to find the right recipient for this enquiry and [REDACTED] kindly pointed me in your direction.

Please see below an enquiry from the Scottish Parliament Information Centre about imidacloprid approval, which has come to us as we have responsibility for agricultural pesticides but based on the media coverage (and the fact that there are no current approvals for crops) assume it is in relation to potential use in fish health.

Thanks, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
SASA
Scottish Government
Roddinglaw Road, Edinburgh, EH12 9FJ, UK

[REDACTED] | **W:** www.sasa.gov.uk

SASA is a Division of the Scottish Government Directorate for Agriculture & the Rural Economy

PDF #61:

Repeated emails already detailed in previous PDFs

PDF #62:

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 May 2021 08:21
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: cleantreat

Hi [REDACTED] didn't share full query, flagged the specific SAIC bits and said we'd been asked for a response to comments from [REDACTED] that SG is looking to smooth the passage for imidacloprid use in salmon farming in Scotland before the results of field trials in Norway and environmental risk assessments have been published.

I haven't shared lines yet as they still seemed to be awaiting clearance from the Environment side, will check with [REDACTED]

Thanks [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 19 May 2021 22:29
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: cleantreat

[REDACTED] – did you share the proposed story with SAIC when you discussed comms? I caught up with colleagues this afternoon and they're interested to see the article but not sure if we can share if it's not yet in public domain?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PDF #63:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- SEPA has updated recently that the benchmark clean treat system is due to go to trial in Scotland in the next couple of weeks. This system will capture treatment water and return it to a pure form, meaning that there should be no discharges to the marine environment. This technology has the potential to make a significant difference to the environment, but also the health and welfare of the fish if stronger or more effective treatments can be completed as a result.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

PDF #64:

Request from SPICe for information

Scottish Government has been asked for its current position is regarding the potential approval of the insecticide, imidacloprid.

Background

- Imidacloprid acts on the nervous system of insects and is an active substance in some insecticides.
- In 2018, The European Commission restricted all outdoor uses of imidacloprid (Regulation (EU) 2018/783) as a plant protection product and only the use in permanent greenhouses is provided for.
- Plant protection products containing imidacloprid are not currently approved in the UK for agricultural or horticultural use.
- Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter. All veterinary medicines require a marketing authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the [Veterinary Medicines Directorate](#) (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment.
- There are specific veterinary medicinal products containing Imidacloprid as an active substance which are currently authorised for use in cats, dogs, rabbits and ferrets only for flea and lice control.

Imidacloprid use in aquaculture

- Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK.

- In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. As part of that process SEPA are required to carry out an evidence-led assessment of whether the environment would be able to accommodate that discharge without significant adverse effect (i.e. without compromising environmental standards). A discharge would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached.
- SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid, nor has it had any pre-application discussions about it.
- More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within their CAR licence, these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the industry are assessed and managed safely.

Recent media coverage of imidacloprid use in aquaculture

- Confusion seems to have arisen in recent media coverage between different products being developed by an innovation company called Benchmark. 'Cleantreat' is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine

prior to discharge of water into the marine environment; this is distinct to a medicine treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' which is developed by the same company.

- Media have quoted Benchmark as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

Marine Scotland
4 June 2021

PDF #65:

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 July 2021 17:30
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; Carmichael DB (Donald) <Donald.Carmichael@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: SEPA - Ectosan FOI enquiry

Hi folks sharing for info

Thanks G

From: [REDACTED]@sepa.org.uk>
Sent: 09 July 2021 17:20
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: Media [REDACTED]@sepa.org.uk>; [REDACTED]@sepa.org.uk>
Subject: SEPA - Ectosan FOI enquiry

OFFICIAL – BUSINESS

Good afternoon,

We've had a couple of aquaculture related enquiries in today that I wanted to just send over given shared policy interests.

The first enquiry is from The Ferret relating to a recent FOI relating to a meeting at which it is implied that SEPA officials discussed how to avoid the use of FOI.

[REDACTED]

As ever, please do let us know if you have any questions on these.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

1

Can one of you, or a colleague, please help with a query for an article I am writing for [The Ferret](#)? I would be grateful if you could get back to me before the end of today, and I would appreciate an acknowledgment of this email.

Minutes of a meeting about plans to use a new fish farming pesticide have been released by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) to the campaigner, Don Staniford, following an appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. The meeting took place on 11 April 2019 at Sepa's offices in Stirling, and involved officials from Sepa, Marine Scotland and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, as well as representative from Benchmark, a company bidding for permission to use Ectosan containing the neonicotinoid pesticide, imidacloprid, in a new 'clean treat' system for killing sea lice. The minutes are attached, and available [here](#).

The minutes, marked "confidential", stated:

"The issue of the confidentiality of any data/methods provided outside of the official field trial application was discussed. SEPA indicated that all correspondence must be marked commercially sensitive and confidential. If this is the case, they can refuse any freedom of information (FOI) requests based on commercial sensitivity grounds. SEPA regularly refuse FOI requests on this basis."

The role of Sepa in advising a company how to avoid disclosure under freedom of information law is likely to be criticised by campaigners. It has already been [attacked by Staniford](#).

What comments would Sepa like to make? Comments by email from a named spokesperson before the end of today would be much appreciated.

A spokesperson for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) said:

"SEPA takes our responsibilities under Freedom of Information and Access to Information very seriously. While we may sometimes withhold information which may be commercially sensitive, this is done with careful consideration and application of the guidance and regulations."

█
[Redacted text block]

█
[Redacted text]

Media and Public Affairs
Scottish Environment Protection Agency | Strathallan House | Castle Business Park | Stirling FK9 4TZ

█
[Redacted text]



[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202000079180

Your Reference: Application to use neonicotinoids in salmon farms

03 September 2020

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email to the First Minister about your concerns over recent reports in British Wildlife magazine that a company called Benchmark has applied to use imidacloprid (brand name Ectosan), a neonicotinoid, at Scottish salmon farms. As protection of the water environment falls under the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, I have been asked to reply.

I can confirm that SEPA is not in receipt of any application to discharge imidacloprid (Ectosan) into the environment. More generally, imidacloprid (Ectosan) does not currently have a marketing authorisation for use as a veterinary medicine in the UK. Any use of imidacloprid (Ectosan) as a medicine for farmed fish would require an appropriate authorisation from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate before it could be used.

If the Veterinary Medicines Directorate authorised the use of imidacloprid (Ectosan) in the UK, any trial/ use in which residues of the medicine would be discharged into the water environment would require a discharge authorisation. If the discharge were intended to be from a vessel, a marine licence from Marine Scotland would be required. If the discharge is not intended to be from a vessel, then a licence from SEPA would be required.

Any new medicine must go through a rigorous assessment process before authorisation to discharge can be granted. An appropriate environmental standard (i.e. an environmentally safe level) would have to be identified and the operator would have to demonstrate that this standard would be met.

An application to authorise imidacloprid (Ectosan) for use in Scotland would also be subject to a

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



public consultation and the responses received would be taken into account in determining the application.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

EQCE : Environmental Quality Unit

PDF #67:

Repeat of earlier PDF disclosure

PDF #68:

From: [Redacted]@SEPA.org.uk>
Sent: 01 November 2021 14:39
To: [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
[Redacted]@gov.scot>; [Redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Ministerial correspondence - imidacloprid - deadline 1 November 2021

OFFICIAL

Hi [Redacted]

Content with those lines and nothing to add. Our understanding is the trial is directly related to the use of the equipment with existing licenced/authorised products.

Thanks

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 01 November 2021 12:38

To: [REDACTED]@SEPA.org.uk>

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot; [REDACTED]@gov.scot;
[REDACTED]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Ministerial correspondence - imidacloprid - deadline 1 November 2021

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is on leave so I am picking up on the Micase bellow which has deadline 1 November 2021.

so I would be really grateful for any further comments by 16:00 before I issue.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 October 2021 09:12

To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@SEPA.org.uk

Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Ministerial correspondence - imidacloprid - deadline 1 November 2021

Thanks [REDACTED]

Looks fine from my perspective.

I understand Benchmark is planning to progress with azamethiphos sea trials, after successful on-land trials, so it doesn't sound like they are currently pursuing use of imidacloprid. [REDACTED] may have uptodate info on this.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 October 2021 12:00
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED]@SEPA.org.uk
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: Ministerial correspondence - imidacloprid - deadline 1 November 2021

[REDACTED]

We have received correspondence regarding imidacloprid and I have drafted a response using standard lines previously agreed with ministers.

I would be grateful if you can advise if you have any comments on the attached draft or if you are content.

<< File: Case reference 202100248468 - Ariane Burgess MSP - imidacloprid - draft response - 20 October 2021.docx >> << File: Case reference 202100248468 - Ariane Burgess MSP - imidacloprid - letter - 20 October 2021.docx >>

A as response is due with private office on 1/11/21 it would be really helpful to have your views by the end of next week (29th).

PDF #69:

Repeat of earlier PDF disclosure

PDF #70:

Repeat of earlier PDF disclosure

PDF #71:

Repeat of earlier PDF disclosure

PDF #72:

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 June 2021 09:34
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: "Clean Treat" and the use of imidacloprid

Thanks [REDACTED]

I only saw the aftermath, this occurred whilst I was on leave. One thing that I did note was a confusion on what was being discussed and how things were referred to.

Clean-Treat is a filtration system, although often discussed in tandem with sea lice treatments Imidacloprid is the active ingredient in a number of anti parasitic animal treatments.

[REDACTED]
Marine Scotland|Marine Laboratory|375 Victoria Road|Aberdeen|AB11 9DB

[REDACTED]
www.gov.scot/marinescotland

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 June 2021 09:06
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: "Clean Treat" and the use of imidacloprid

[REDACTED]
Thanks for this - we'll respond along with all the others.

[REDACTED] - to note.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 June 2021 15:27
To: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: "Clean Treat" and the use of imidacloprid

Hi [REDACTED]

1

Coming back from a weeks leave and trying to sort out my mailbox.

Aware that there has been significant discussion on this topic in the last week. I was forwarded the message below, having received it from Paul McLennan MSP, via the MSmailbox. Probably more for a policy response, than one from Science.

Happy to discuss further if required.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Marine Scotland|Marine Laboratory|375 Victoria Road|Aberdeen|AB11 9DB

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PDF #73:

PDF #74:

SAIC Board meeting 19 Feb 2022
Brief for MS Director

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7.1.1 On project #44, CleanTreat, SAIC was in dialogue with the project team and SEPA directly to clarify how the sector could proceed with the new technology if trials were successful. ATu offered to ask her team to follow up. Action: Update on progress

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]