



Llyr Gruffydd, MS

Llyr.Gruffydd@senedd.wales

25 October 2023

Dear Llyr

Thank you for your question during Plenary on 19 September. You asked whether the Government would be willing to publish the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) advice which accompanied their recommendation to refuse an emergency authorisation for the use of Asulox in Wales for bracken control in 2023.

I can provide you links to information made publicly available following the decision. These provide a good summary of the HSE's advice and the issues considered:

- Expert Committee on Pesticides pages on the gov.uk website. [Full Minutes - 18 April 2023 - Expert Committee on Pesticides \(ECP\). \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1163747/ecp-minutes-230418.pdf) (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1163747/ecp-minutes-230418.pdf). Annex 1 confirms the information the expert committee provided about the application.
- Letter from the HSE to the Bracken Control Group (the applicant for the Emergency Authorisation) giving the HSE's reason for refusal. The Group has published the letter on their website <https://www.brackencontrol.co.uk/downloadfile/19669613?open=true>.

As a rule, the HSE do not publish their Emergency Registration Reports. However, the Scottish Government has published a redacted version of the advice under an Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) request. They have applied an exception to the document under regulation 10(5)(e) of the EIR as some of the information is confidential and provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

[Asulux ban and links to cancer: EIR release - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\) \(https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202300364758/\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202300364758/). The ERR starts on page 165 of the link to documents 1-10.

You may also wish to be made aware of a recent announcement by the manufacturers of asulam (the active substance in Asulox), that they have taken the decision to cease further work on a permanent solution for the use of asulam. The Bracken Control Group have stated in light of this announcement they will not be submitting an Emergency Authorisation application in 2024.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd