

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **EVIDENCE FOR THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION – PESTICIDES AND BYSTANDER EXPOSURE STUDY**

*List of documentation/material accompanying this submission and some of which is referred to in the text of this document*

*This includes documentation and a video to be seen prior to the oral evidence session in December 2004. This is listed under “Essential Reading/Viewing.” Then the second section is listed as “Reference Material accompanying this submission,” for RCEP members’ information. Some of these documents will have been referred to in the text of this document.*

#### **Essential Reading/Viewing prior to oral evidence session**

1. This document submitted to the Royal Commission entitled “*Evidence for the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution – Pesticides and Bystander Exposure Study*” dated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2004
2. Submission to the DEFRA Consultation on “*Proposals for the Introduction of No-Spray Buffer Zones Between Spraying Areas and Residential Properties in England and Wales*,” dated 29/9/03, along with the accompanying video previously circulated for RCEP members’ entitled “*Pesticide Exposures for People in Agricultural Areas – Part 1 Pesticides in the Air – Part 2 The Hidden Costs*”
3. Comments submitted on the Form provided at the RCEP Public Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2004
4. Copy of my power point slides and accompanying commentary presented at the RCEP public meeting held on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2004
5. The paper presented for the ACP Open Meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2002 entitled “*Why the “bystander risk assessment” does not equate to real-life exposure scenarios*”

***\*There has been extensive media interest and coverage on this issue over the last 2 years. Therefore I have included for RCEP members’ reference copies of just a few of the most important:-***

6. Article in The Observer on April 13<sup>th</sup> 2003 entitled “*Georgina’s Fight Against Toxic Peril*” – as well as the piece I wrote for the Observer website entitled “*Can we have a breath of fresh air?*”

7. Article in the Sunday Telegraph, August 31<sup>st</sup> 2003 entitled “*Whitewash for Crop Sprays*”
8. Article in the Sunday Telegraph, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2004 entitled “*Pesticide Platitudes – To Consult Means to Ignore*”
9. Article in the Sunday Telegraph, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2004 entitled “*Evidence Ignored – DEFRA snubs the young crusader*”
10. ***On the enclosed video tape entitled “For RCEP members – Essential Viewing – Crop Spraying Media Compilation” (Length of time approx. 1 hour 5 minutes):-***
  1. *The Food Police*, BBC1 March 26<sup>th</sup> 2003 (NB. This was filmed during 2002 and our story is featured at various times throughout the programme interweaved with other stories that are not specifically related to crop-spraying)
  2. BBC Breakfast News, BBC1 August 5<sup>th</sup> 2003 regarding the “*bystander model*” and the DEFRA Consultation
  3. That’s Esther, ITV January 25<sup>th</sup> 2004
  4. BBC Breakfast News, BBC1 June 16<sup>th</sup> 2004 (*just prior to Alun Michael’s announcement*)
  5. BBC News 24, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2004

**Important Note:** In relation to the last item on the video listed, I would like to draw RCEP members’ attention to comments made by the Minister Alun Michael regarding his decision on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2004 not to introduce no-spray zones around agricultural land surrounding homes, schools, workplaces etc. One of these comments is referred to in this news item.

During a telephone conversation on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2004, Alun Michael informed me of the result of the Consultations’ and his request for the RCEP study. I asked him if it therefore meant that his decision was a “*no*” to no-spray zones full stop or if it could be revisited. **He said it was a no full stop.**

I then enquired as to the purpose of the RCEP study if he wasn’t intending to revisit his decision, (depending on the RCEP’s findings). I do not recall a clear response to this question.

In a letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> July 2004 Alun Michael stated “.....***the decision has been made and is not open to change.***”

I subsequently wrote to Alun Michael on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2004 to ask if he could clarify in writing whether he intended to revisit his decision in the light of any fresh advice he

receives from the Royal Commission once the report is finalised, (especially if the recommendations made are for further action from the Government).

In a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> September 2004, Alun Michael stated “*My decision in referring the matter to the RCEP can in no way be construed as a criticism of PSD’s approach. I simply believe that it would be helpful for the RCEP to provide an additional independent view by reviewing the current procedures. I do not feel it would be helpful to try to anticipate the outcome of their review at this time or what actions, if any, would be taken as a result of this. I should reiterate that the RCEP is looking at the risk assessment process. I see no reason to extrapolate this to a reconsideration of the buffer zones proposals.*”

Therefore considering the original comment that Alun Michael had made during the telephone conversation on June 16<sup>th</sup> 2004, I wanted to stress that the comments I made on BBC News 24 were in no way intended to criticise the Royal Commission’s study or the Royal Commission itself.

**11. Aerial photos as referred to in 6.32. These photos simply reinforce the total inadequacy of small “buffer zones/strips” as fields run for miles in all directions. The rural areas shown are all those belonging to people who have contacted me reporting ill-health in their communities. They include in varying scales:-**

- a) 2 aerial photos taken of our house, “*Reflections,*” land and surrounding area in 1993 (*NB. Our house is the one shown nearest the field*)
- b) Aerial photo of our house and surrounding fields/area taken from the website Getmapping (the small red arrow marks our house). Across left to right is approx. 1 mile
- c) Aerial photo of our house and surrounding fields/area taken from the website Getmapping (the small red arrow marks our house). Across left to right is approx. 2 ½ miles
- d) Aerial photo of our house and surrounding fields/area taken from the website Getmapping (the small red arrow marks our house). Across left to right is approx. 5 ½ miles
- e) Kay Wadey’s house and surrounding area in Suffolk. (*NB. One-scale photo was used in my power point presentation, however, these are the next 2 sizes up*). The small red arrow marks Kay’s house. Across left to right is approx. 2 ½ miles
- f) Kay's house again. The red arrow marks Kay’s house. Approx. 5 ½ miles left to right
- g) Jane Paler's house and surrounding area in Kent. (3rd on the video “*Pesticide Exposures for People in Agricultural Areas – Part 2 The Hidden Costs*”). Approx. 1 mile left to right

- h) Nicola Plowman's surrounding area to both her home and her daughter's school in Lincolnshire. (10<sup>th</sup> on the video "Pesticide Exposures for People in Agricultural Areas – Part 2 The Hidden Costs"). Approx. 1 mile left to right
- i) Nicola Plowman's surrounding area to both her home and her daughter's school. Approx. 2 ½ miles left to right
- j) Nicola Plowman's surrounding area to both her home and her daughter's school. Approx. 5 ½ miles left to right
- k) Nicola Plowman's surrounding area to both her home and her daughter's school. Approx. 10 miles left to right. **This picture really does highlight the number of fields in all directions over vast distances surrounding rural communities**
- l) Aerial photo belonging to a gentleman who first contacted me in April 2004 reporting cases of cancer in his area surrounded by sprayed fields. I have pasted in his original email below:-

*"I live in a rural part of the North Yorkshire moors at.....Railway Station, on the old railway line between Scarborough and Whitby. We have only two houses here, the Station itself and the railway cottage in which I and my family have lived for thirty years. We have fields directly to the rear of our house, which used to be sown with corn, but have now been set aside for quite a number of years. Spraying right up to our back fence, and most recently with weedkiller giving a strong metallic taste throughout my house especially our bedroom, has occurred nearly every year, as the prevailing westerly winds blow over these fields towards our house. We have never been warned that this was going to take place, as a contractor just turns up, mixes the stuff himself and disappears, therefore we have no idea what chemicals or concentrations of chemical cocktail is being wind blown into our house.*

*What is alarming is that at the two houses, we have had incidences of cancer. At the railway station where a young women died aged 36 in 1988 of cancer, and more recently when I was diagnosed in March 2003 with a brain tumour, both the houses surrounded by these sprayed fields have had cancers diagnosed, is this classed as a cluster.*

*Please find accompanying photographs showing the way the grass in the surrounding fields has been killed off each year. In fact the aerial photo of the fields enclosed with this Email from Getmapping Digital photographs of North Yorkshire show very well that the surrounding fields stand out as unique, in being completely killed off...!*

*Please would you give me any information you can about rules which would allow us to make the farmer tell us when he will spray, what he is using and in what concentrations, and if there is yet any rules about going near to our houses. There was a program on television about a family I think may have been in the Eastern counties whose daughter, contracted the same illness and they had a tremendous fight to try and get information*

*from the local farmer. Do you know what the conclusion was? I would be most grateful to have any information or help you could let me have!"*

## **Reference material accompanying this submission**

12. Letter from Lord Whitty (Minister for Food and Farming) to Georgina Downs dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 2002 regarding the outcome of the ACP Open Meeting and arranging a meeting date
13. Letter from Lord Whitty to Georgina Downs –16<sup>th</sup> January 2003
14. The 2 pages that were sent to ACP members prior to their meeting on 10/4/03 entitled *"Update from Georgina Downs."*
15. Various correspondence with the ACP Chairman Professor David Coggon including:-
  - Letter from the ACP Chairman, Professor David Coggon, to Georgina Downs, dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 2003
  - Letter from Georgina Downs to Professor Coggon dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 2003 also copied to the Vice-Chair, Professor Robert Smith
  - Letter from Professor Coggon to Georgina Downs dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 2003
16. Accompanying notes to the Consultation Documents' entitled *"Consultation on Pesticide Spraying Close to Residential Properties – General Q&A Briefing,"* as referred to in paragraph 4.19
17. Consultation Submission by Pam Baguley dated 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003, as referred to in paragraphs 4.25 and 6.19. Pam and her family used to live surrounded by sprayed fields in Yorkshire. I have also included a number of emails from Pam as well as one from her husband Andrew as they make powerful reading and I gave copies of them to Alun Michael following the meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup> 2003. *(NB. As members' will see from these emails Pam suddenly died in November last year not long after she had written her submission to the DEFRA Consultation)*
18. Email from Georgina Downs to Pat Troop, Chief Executive of the Health Protection Agency (HPA) dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2003 following the BBC Breakfast News series *"Too Close for Comfort."* This email included quotes taken from the item that featured Pat Troop on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2003. Pat Troop's reply to my email dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 2003 is also included. This correspondence was referred to in paragraphs 2.53 and 2.54.
19. Various correspondence with PSD in relation to the Consultations' including:-

- Email from Caroline Kennedy (PSD) to Georgina Downs dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2003 prior to the DEFRA Stakeholder meeting held on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2003 as referred to in paragraph 4.60
  - Email from Georgina Downs to Sue Popple (Head of Policy, PSD) dated 16<sup>th</sup> October 2003 regarding the DEFRA Stakeholder meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2003 as referred to in paragraph 4.61
  - Email to Sue Popple on 28<sup>th</sup> May regarding the meeting that took place on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2004 and her reply as referred to in paragraph 4.64
20. The Written Parliamentary Question tabled by my MEP Caroline Lucas, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2003 and the response from Margot Wallstrom the European Commission's DG for Environment dated 10<sup>th</sup> June 2003 as referred to in paragraph 5.34
21. The 2 page Written Declaration tabled in the European Parliament by my MEP Caroline Lucas dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2003
22. 4 recent Written Parliamentary Questions, as referred to in paragraph 3.2:-
- PQ number 2696 03 / 04 *(NB. I asked this question through my MP Andrew Tyrie, as all the things listed from a) to f) are currently not taken into account in the methods for assessing the risks to public health from agricultural spraying. (NB. This was confirmed at a meeting with PSD on 27/1/04)*
  - PQ number 2697 03 / 04 – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2004
  - PQ number 2765 03 / 04 – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004. *(NB. This answer confirms that there does not seem to be any peer-reviewed and published UK studies that have measured actual exposures to pesticides for people living in agricultural areas, as it refers to data relating to operators and workers only)*
  - PQ number 2766 03 /04 – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2004
23. The email Samuel Epstein, Professor Emeritus Environmental and Occupational Medicine, University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health and Chairman of the Cancer Prevention Coalition who is known as a leading international authority on cancer-causing effects of pesticides and other hazardous chemicals sent to Alun Michael, (DEFRA Ministers for Rural Affairs), Margaret Beckett (DEFRA Secretary of State) and Melanie Johnson (DOH Minister for Public Health) on 14/6/04. This email was referred to in paragraphs 1.28 and 2.40.
24. Various correspondence with the COT Secretariat including, as referred to in paragraph 1.23:-

- Email from Keith Butler (Committee on Toxicity, COT) to Georgina Downs dated June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004 regarding the video and submission
  - Email from Georgina Downs to Keith Butler dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2004 in response to the aforementioned email
25. The 3 page Summary of Responses document published by the PSD following the announcement of the Consultation as referred to in paragraph 4.37 and 4.38
26. Correspondence with Timothy Walker, Director General, HSE as referred to in paragraphs 5.43 – 5.48 including:-
- Email from Georgina Downs to Timothy Walker dated 21<sup>st</sup> March 2003
  - Letter from Timothy Walker to Georgina Downs dated 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2003
  - Email from Georgina Downs to Timothy Walker dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2003
  - Letter from Timothy Walker to Georgina Downs dated 14<sup>th</sup> May 2003
27. Information relating to the case *Arias et al v Dyncorp* regarding aerial spraying of pesticides, the harmful effects on local people and the community and subsequent legal case

***Information/documentation relating to mine and my family's specific situation***

28. Campaign Background – Taken from [www.pesticidescampaign.co.uk](http://www.pesticidescampaign.co.uk) and Campaign Information and Objectives – Taken from [www.pesticidescampaign.co.uk](http://www.pesticidescampaign.co.uk)
29. **Examples of safety data sheet warnings for products that are (or have been) used on the adjoining fields:-**
- Safety Data Sheet for Nicosoap – in full
  - Safety Data Sheet for Toppel 10 – in full
  - Safety Data Sheet for PDQ (contains Paraquat) – in full
  - Safety Data Sheet for Caramba – in full
  - Cover sheet of safety data sheet for Duplosan KV; first 2 pages of safety data sheet for Dovetail; first 2 pages of safety data sheet for Aphox; first 2 pages of safety data sheet for Hallmark Zeon;

*(NB. Just to point out that where it says on some of the pages “Inhalation – unlikely to cause harmful effects” – this seems to be more to do with the fact that the inhalation route of absorption/exposure to pesticides does not appear to have been adequately assessed to date)*

**30. Examples of COSHH Assessment Forms for products that are (or have been) used on the adjoining fields:-**

- Nicosoap
- PDQ
- Decis
- Ramrod Flo
- Alliette
- Amistar
- Thianosan DG

*(NB. A COSHH Assessment is what a farmer/employer is required to do mainly in relation to the exposure of a worker. It should also be for anyone else affected, but the approvals system is not indicating that it is a risk to members of the public and therefore farmers may not be aware that there are any risks, as it is deemed “safe” at the approval level. See document 5 “Why the bystander risk assessment does not equate to real-life exposure scenarios” and other documentation in relation to this)*

**Note:** I have also provided the RCEP Secretariat with a report by the Environmental Justice Foundation in 2003 entitled “*What’s Your Poison?*” This report was referred to in paragraph 2.21.

This report summarises the health risks and related acute and chronic long-term illnesses and diseases associated with pesticide exposure, particularly in relation to developing countries. However, it obviously has direct relevance to the UK situation as well, as it lists each condition in sections (ie. breast cancer, brain cancer, leukaemia, non-Hodgkins lymphoma etc.) and details the international scientific evidence and studies that supports the link between the illness/disease and pesticide exposure.

I have further material/documentation that can be made available to the Royal Commission upon request.