

## **ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**

### **RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE SAFE USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS IN SCOTLAND AND ON PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON PESTICIDE USE**

I refer to the above and would respond thus.

The new code of practice updates the old and covers a number of useful points. As a practical, easy to follow guide it fulfils the criteria.

Public access to Info Pesticide use.

The mandatory keeping of records.

Most local authorities keep records as described ,private users records may not be as well documented. A mandatory requirement forces good record keeping which is of advantage to many and may act to tighten up bad practice in application of pesticides if records are available for inspection. Freedom of Information Act no doubt has guidance on how information should be disclosed. Reasonable requests in writing may be the best way to keep control of enquires and those enquiring including their reason for asking and the response given. The notification of those n adjacent house is totally impractical for local authorities. Where pesticide is used on miles of roadway and housing scheme this would require a massive logistical operation to letter all residents ,it would also be further complicated if plans had been made, letters out then operation is rescheduled requiring further huge letter drop. Drawing attention to the operation will also serve to alarm the public unnecessarily putting obstacles in the way of a safe controlled operation. Local authorities on the whole take a responsible view on pesticide application and have warning notices ,safe systems of work and competent staff. In summary this proposal is impractical and unnecessary for local authorities. Notification of spraying operations would be notified locally by signage on the day of treatment .Operatives would carry information on the product being used and why it is being used. IN order to avoid any panic notification would be on the day with generic signs placed strategically and staying in place for recommended period of time after completion of application. Local knowledge of vulnerable operations such as bee keeping areas would be notified anyway.

Response has been made by  
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