

Wildlife and Countryside Link response to the Pesticides Forum Annual Report 2011

28 May 2012

The Pesticide Forum is a multi-stakeholder initiative that brings together a range of parties with an interest in how pesticides are used. It includes representatives from farming, retail, industry and civil society organisations. Wildlife and Countryside Link has been a member of the Pesticides Forum since 1998 and sits on the Forum in order to participate in discussions and to try to influence the advice and recommendations made to Government. **We do not always agree with the conclusions and recommendations of the Forum.**

The Forum published its 2011 annual report on the impacts of and sustainable use of pesticides in May 2012. This contained the following statement, within the Executive Summary:

“The work of the UK Pesticides Forum in 2011 confirms that the use of pesticides is not adversely impacting on the health of UK Citizens or the environment”.

Wildlife and Countryside Link **does not** agree with this statement. Nor do we agree with the statement that the UK’s controls *“deliver high standards of protection for human health for the environment”*. We believe that much more can be done to protect people and the environment from pesticides.

Whilst we cannot always influence its conclusions, we remain involved in the Pesticides Forum to ensure that the concerns and experiences of our member organisations regarding the impacts of pesticides on wildlife and the environment are given a voice and a representation in all discussions about future action required.

Link will be writing to the Forum to confirm that it does not support the above statement. We will also be requesting that the Forum includes a disclaimer statement in future reports.

The 2011 Annual Report of the Pesticides Forum can be found on:

<http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/advisory-groups/pesticides-forum>