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for Environment,
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Dear Signatories,

Thank you for your joint letter of 6 May to the Secretary of State sharing your views about glyphosate use as a pre-harvest desiccant in context of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement we are currently pursuing with the EU. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The government's first priority with regard to glyphosate, like all pesticides, is to ensure that it will not harm people or animal health or pose unacceptable effects to the environment. Decisions on the approval and authorisation of active substances and pesticides products are based on careful scientific assessment of the risks. This provides a high level of protection for people and the environment, while supporting agricultural production.

You raised the issue of glyphosate residues on food when used pre-harvest. Pesticide residues on food are also accounted for as part of our pesticides regulation. The GB Maximum Residue Level (MRL) regime sets high standards of consumer protection to ensure that residues in our food supply do not harm human health. There is an ongoing pesticide residue monitoring programme to provide assurance that pesticides are used in accordance with their authorised conditions and that food on the UK market complies with the rules and is safe to eat. GB MRL compliance rates are very high, all results are published online, and are available [here](#).

The government has agreed with the EU to establish a common SPS area, by way of an SPS Agreement and pesticides regulations are in scope. This will make agrifood trade with our biggest market easier, cutting costs and red tape for British producers and retailers. Negotiations began at the end of 2025, and the details of the SPS agreement are still to be negotiated.

We are currently assessing the implications of the transition from the existing pesticides regulatory system to a future framework defined by the SPS agreement. We will seek to minimise any negative impacts on farmers and growers through our negotiations and will work closely with industry throughout implementation. I cannot comment further whilst negotiations are ongoing.

Last year the government published the UK Pesticides National Action Plan (NAP). It sets out how all four UK governments will support farmers, growers and other land managers to increase their use of sustainable farming practices to reduce the potential harm from pesticides and control pests and pesticide resistance effectively, whilst protecting food security.

The NAP introduces a UK domestic target to reduce the potential pressures from pesticides on the environment by 10% by 2030. The NAP will support moves by farmers towards more sustainable pest management through increased use of integrated pest management (IPM), an environmentally friendly and holistic approach to pest, weed and disease management. IPM practices can reduce the risks associated with pesticide use, helping to protect wildlife, and enhance soil and water quality.

Support for growers to implement Integrated Pest Management approaches is available including through schemes such as the Sustainable Farming Incentive which pays farmers and land managers to carry out actions that support the sustainable production of food and boost farm productivity and resilience, while protecting and enhancing the environment.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact us about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

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

EMMA HARDY MP