

COM/2025/1030 Proposal for a Regulation amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 1829/2003, (EC) No 1831/2003, (EC) No 852/2004, (EC) No 853/2004, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1099/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 528/2012, (EU) 2017/625 as regards the simplification and strengthening of food and feed safety requirements

Question Peter Martin MLA: (Pg8)

If we look at the proportion of businesses in Northern Ireland, we see that agri-food is quite large. Am I wrong in saying that?"

Initial response from Hansard transcript

Ms Thompson: No, but you have to remember that not every farmer will use pesticides to any great extent. You will find that the arable farmers are big users. The horticulture sector is small, but it is a big user. Grassland farmers are minimal users, generally. The number of users is seen as being very small compared with elsewhere.

Follow up response

Pesticide Usage Survey data gathered in 2012-2023 indicates that total PPP usage in Northern Ireland in this period amounted to 238,293 kg, representing just 1.44% of the overall UK total (16.5 million kg), demonstrating that NI is a comparatively small user of PPPs in the UK context.

Question Peter Martin MLA: (Pg8)

What is the scale of Northern Ireland's agrochemical market? For clarity, is that businesses in Northern Ireland that make agrochemical supplies?

Initial response from Hansard transcript

Ms Thompson: It is users. Ms Mallon: Yes. It is regarding the use and size and significance of the Northern Ireland market. Northern Ireland is considered by manufacturers and distributors to be a very small market. Subsequently, we are not considered a priority, as the sales here are not big enough for the companies to be overly concerned about.

Follow up response

Northern Ireland only has one registered PPP manufacturing business, however the majority of their operation is focused on repackaging bulk products produced elsewhere for distribution to the local market. The remaining pesticides sold in Northern Ireland

are sourced from and packaged for the NI market by manufacturers in the UK and further afield and brought on to the market via distributors and suppliers.

Question Peter Martin MLA: (Pg8)

Do you have any idea of the amount of those products that are bought in Northern Ireland?

Initial response from Hansard transcript

Ms Thompson: No, that is not something that we have data on at this point.

Follow up response

There is currently no system in Northern Ireland to track PPP sales, so available evidence is based on usage estimates from the Pesticide Usage Survey rather than purchases.

These data show that total PPP use is relatively small—around 238,293 kg, or 1.44% of the UK total—with application dominated by grassland/fodder and arable crops.

Use in horticulture is minimal by comparison, meaning overall PPP usage patterns closely reflect Northern Ireland’s agriculture, with a strong emphasis on livestock and feed production rather than intensive cropping.

The Pesticide Usage Survey figures for the Amenity Sector are reported on at a UK level and we cannot extract the NI share of that aggregated figure.

Question Peter Martin MLA: (Pg8)

What level of stakeholder engagement have you had with the people who buy such things?

Initial response from Hansard transcript

Ms Thompson: At the minute, very little. We speak to the UFU's pesticide policy official. She is aware of this. However, the problem at the minute is that we do not have enough detail.

Follow up response

Officials already engage in regular discussions with the UFU on emerging issues, and have planned future engagement specifically on this matter which will commence once

we have more information around timelines and the commercial impact, which could potentially affect product availability. Following our attendance at the DSC, we have made contact with Croplife, the key stakeholder body for manufacturers. Croplife have advised that once more information becomes available, such as the Commissions' Impact Assessment, they will be in a position to do a more in-depth analysis of the impact of the Food & Feed Safety Omnibus.

Question Jonathan Buckley MLA: (Pg10)

Has adequate thought been given to the supply chain issue for the products that are sourced in GB to access Northern Ireland's market and vice versa?

Initial response from Hansard transcript

Ms Mallon: We have not considered that yet. No.

Follow up response

We do not envisage any issues with supply to the NI market of products sourced in GB, providing they have been authorised for use in NI. In our contacts with major manufacturers, they have not raised any supply chain issues.

PPP and MRL legislation are also within scope of the UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. This means that, subject to the outcome of negotiations, GB would align with EU rules on PPP and MRLs, thereby reducing or eliminating regulatory divergence. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-eu-sps-agreement-legislation-in-scope>

Question Chairperson Ciara Ferguson MLA: (Pg11)

Will you engage separately with manufacturers? Do you have any plans or a schedule for that?

Initial response from Hansard transcript

Ms Thompson: Yes. We will make contact first through CropLife, which is the main body, and expand it out from there.

Follow up response

Officials have made contact with Croplife, and we are arranging a meeting in the coming weeks to discuss the implications of the proposal, and potential impacts on growers around supply and product availability.

Once more information is available from the EU on the detail of how this will be put into place, we will seek views from HSE on the impact on existing processes.