



From: [REDACTED]
To: "PY YOONG" <pyyoong@legco.gov.hk>
Cc: "Paul Melsom" <[REDACTED]> <[REDACTED]>
Date: 27/04/2014 21:28
Subject: Re: Subcommittee on Pesticides Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 1) Notice 2014:
Invitation for written submission on the Pesticides Ordinance (Amendment of Schedule 1)
Notice 2014

Dear Ms Camy Yoong,

Thank you for your invitation and sorry for not being able to attend. As we do not have qualifications to comment on this issue, we are seeking advice from Mr. Paul Melsom, whose position on this matter corresponds with our general concerns.

At this stage we can only reiterate views expressed last year in an email to your colleague Ms. Meisy Kwok, in particular views contained in the last three paragraphs of our email, which I copy here below for your reference.

"Regarding agricultural pesticides, we do not feel qualified to comment on their use. However we do feel that apart from licensing pesticides, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's (AFCD) role should also be to monitor their use and promote training among pesticide workers to try to ensure that the smallest feasible applications are carried out so as to minimise impacts on health and the environment. It would be very positive too if AFCD could actively help propagate organic farming practices and train farmers in such.

GLA would like to see government departments, FEHD and LCSD in particular, reduce chemical pesticide applications in their various areas of responsibility to the minimum and set an annual maximum usage target for each category of pesticide in their stockpiles. The aim should be to economize on the use of existing stockpiles while reducing orders for fresh stocks. Orders for new purchases of pesticides should be critically reviewed on an ongoing basis and the relevant information should be made accessible to the public.

Regarding the use of herbicides by government departments, it is hoped the current prevailing trend of not using herbicides for vegetation clearance that can be done by hand, by grass-cutting equipment or by machinery will continue to remain the rule. These departments include AFCD (country park trails), HAD (rural footpaths and open spaces),

FEHD (refuse collection facilities and public toilets), LCSD (public parks, gardens and sitting-out areas) and the Housing Authority (flower beds, playgrounds and paving-brick areas in housing estates).

Thank you for kindly circulating these comments to LegCo Members engaged in discussing the Pesticides Amendment Bill."

Yours sincerely
Fabian Pedrazzini
Green Lantau Association