



Sue Domminney  
nick.domminney@btinternet.com

Our Reference: 202100212642

21 June 2021

Dear Sue Domminney,

Thank you for your enquiry of 07 June 2021 regarding the use of the imidacloprid on fish farms on behalf of your constituent. As I have been asked to respond, I'd like to take the opportunity to correct recent media reporting that the way is being paved for its use and reassure you, that this is not the case.

Imidacloprid is not currently authorised for use in aquaculture in the UK. Veterinary medicines are a reserved matter and require authorisation for sale and supply in the UK from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) following robust and rigorous assessment. In addition to any authorisation granted by the VMD, the discharge of imidacloprid into the marine environment in Scotland would require authorisation from SEPA as an independent regulator. A discharge into the marine environment would only be authorised if SEPA were satisfied that environmental standards would not be breached. More generally, all fish farms in Scotland have to meet strict environmental standards, set out within licence, and these are regulated by SEPA with the aim of ensuring that the environmental impacts from the industry are assessed and managed safely.

SEPA has not received an application to use imidacloprid, nor has it had any pre-application discussions about it.

Confusion has arisen in recent media reporting between the development by Benchmark of 'Cleantreat' which is a water purification technology used for removing sea lice medicine prior to discharge, and the use of a treatment containing imidacloprid called 'BMK08' which is developed by the same company. Benchmark has been quoted in the press as stating that it is currently focused on launching BMK08, which can be used together with CleanTreat, in Norway, and that at this time it does not have any scheduled trials for BMK08 in Scotland.

I hope this provides you and your constituent with the reassurance that there is no planned imminent

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approval for imidacloprid use in the marine environment.

Yours sincerely

Panos Pliatsikas  
**ARF : Aquaculture Unit**

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