

DEFRA Press Release 19th November 2015

Farming Minister George Eustice said:

“I committed to meeting the Sheep Dip Sufferers Group, which I did today to listen to their concerns. I am sympathetic to farmers suffering from ill health and acknowledge that some of them associate their illness with the use of organophosphate sheep dips.

“The use of organophosphates is controlled to minimise the risk to humans and safety advice has always been based on the latest available scientific evidence.

“The Government commissioned £4million research into this issue, and the Committee on Toxicity has looked at this matter exhaustively over the past decade. Its conclusions are clear that low-level exposure to organophosphates does not cause long-term health affect in adults. However acute poisoning can, in some cases, have longer-term effects.

“There was concern expressed about the evidence and knowledge that the government of the day had before deciding to discontinue compulsory sheep dipping so I have given an undertaking to look at our archives from that time.”