



**Colchester Borough Council**  
Rowan House, 33 Sheepen Road,  
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The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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Contact  
Email  
Date

**Cllr Mark Cory**  
**mark.cory@colchester.gov.uk**  
**11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Dear Priti,

### **The use of anti bee pesticides**

I believe we must stand together to protect our bees, other pollinators and ultimately, the food chain.

The decision by your government colleagues to reverse the ban on use of pesticides containing neonicotinoid thiamethoxam is not only a direct threat to our already endangered bee population, but it goes against the principle stance put forward in 2018 by then Environment Secretary, Michael Gove. He said: "The weight of evidence now shows the risks neonicotinoids pose to our environment, particularly to the bees and other pollinators which play such a key part in our £100bn food industry, is greater than previously understood ... We cannot afford to put our pollinator populations at risk."

Importantly, he added this key promise: "Unless the evidence base changes again, the government will keep these restrictions in place after we have left the EU."

The evidence has not changed. The same risk, which "we cannot afford", still remains. So, I hope that you can join me in lobbying to not allow this ecological disaster to occur.

We all learnt the basic science at school, outlining how important pollinators are to our plants and crops, and how we completely rely on insects for our food chain to survive. The future of our ecosystem depends on it, and harming the bee population is simply short-sighted. The UK bee population has declined by a third over the last decade, yet up to three-quarters of crop species are pollinated by bees.

This is a decision our bee population and our own ecosystem cannot afford. I ask you to make the sensible choice and call for this pesticide ban not to be lifted.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Mark Cory  
**Leader of the Council**