

PE1671/D

British Pest Control Association (BPCA) submission of 23 November 2017

The British Pest Control Association (BPCA) is aware that representations have recently been made to the Scottish Parliament in the form of a petition seeking to ban the use of glue boards for the control of rodents.

BPCA supports a ban on sale to, and use by, the public as we believe there are significant numbers of cases of misuse by amateur users (i.e. the public and untrained individuals carrying out commercial pest control). What is of paramount importance is that these products be kept available for professionally trained and competent pest controllers to use in order to preserve public health. We recommend that they are only available for use by individuals who have been trained to and have passed the RSPH/BPCA Level 2 Award in Pest Management qualification, the industry-standard course for professional pest control.

There is currently no clear definition of professional pest control operatives that incorporates training, qualification and continuing professional development, or any formally regulated sale of such products used for the control of pest species. Without this, our industry is reliant on voluntary adherence to codes of best practice and stewardship. We would urge the Scottish government to consider creating a clear definition of professional user, and then restricting glue board sale to and use by professional trained users only.

As our colleagues will have drawn to your attention, there exists a Pest Management Alliance Code of Best Practice for the use of glue boards for rodent control. Every BPCA Servicing Company Member and their staff (all of whom have the aforementioned Level 2 qualification or equivalent) operate to this code, and clear sanctions are taken against them should they be found to have breached it, or any of the other codes of practice which we have developed ourselves or in tandem with colleagues in other organisations.

Glue boards are used by trained professional users for rodent control in very specific circumstances, and are selected when other methods of control have been considered in line with the "risk hierarchy" i.e. the principle strategy when choosing methods for the control of rodents is to employ methods that have the least risk of adverse impact (i.e. are the least severe) but which will be effective in the prevailing circumstances.

BPCA is the largest trade body in the public health pest management arena with over 750 member companies employing over 3,500 pest control technicians (see www.bpca.org.uk for details). We take our responsibilities to both public health and animal welfare seriously. The priority of our members and BPCA itself is the safety of the public, and prevention of harm by pest species such as rodents. Rodent Glue Boards offer a swift response to urgent problems such as a rat in a hospital ward, or mice exhibiting behavioural resistance entering a food preparation area.

The British Pest Control Association supports the position of the Pest Management Alliance and REHIS, that these products be taken off the market for untrained users, and collectively we oppose the petitioners' proposal to ban the use of these products for professional use on the grounds stated above.

We would be very pleased to meet with you or your colleagues to discuss this matter further in order to continue to preserve the public health and property of the Scottish people and visitors alike.