

THE STATES OF DELIBERATION
of the
ISLAND OF GUERNSEY

REQUÊTE

**REVOCATION OF ALL EXISTING APPROVALS OF PLANT PROTECTION
PRODUCTS (PESTICIDES) CONTAINING THE ACTIVE SUBSTANCE GLYPHOSATE**

The States are asked to decide:-

Whether, after consideration of the Requête entitled “Revocation of all existing approvals of plant protection products (pesticides) containing the active substance Glyphosate” dated 16th November, 2022, they are of the opinion:-

1. To agree that action should be taken in Guernsey to eradicate the threat to its inhabitants and its eco-structure posed by the continued use of Glyphosate on the island.
2. To direct the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security, by the end of the year 2023, in exercise of its powers under Regulation 11(8) of the Control of Poisonous Substances (Guernsey) Regulations, 2014, as amended, to revoke all existing approvals of plant protection products (pesticides) containing the active substance Glyphosate (CAS No.1071-83-6, EU No. 213-997-4), including those authorising the use, importation and sale to professional users.

Rule 4(1) Information

- a) The propositions contribute to the States’ objectives and policy plans by seeking to ensure that plant protection products containing Glyphosate will (by the end of 2023) no longer be approved under the Poisonous Substances (Guernsey) Law, 1994, thus prohibiting their use, importation and sale, which will help keep the island safe and secure, support healthy living and maximise the sustainable social and economic use of the island and marine environment.
- b) In preparing the propositions, consultation has been undertaken with the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security (ESS), the Health and Safety Executive, Guernsey Water and the Committee *for* Health & Social Care (CfHSC).
- c) The propositions have been submitted to His Majesty’s Procureur for advice on any legal or constitutional implications.
- d) There are no apparent financial implications to the States of carrying the proposal into effect.

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THE HUMBLE PETITION of the undersigned Members of the States of Deliberation
SHEWETH THAT:

1. The chemical Glyphosate (commonly known as Roundup) is being used extensively as a weed killer in Guernsey.
2. Glyphosate is the most utilised herbicide in agriculture, although its widespread use is generating controversy in the scientific world because of its probable carcinogenic effect on human cells. Your petitioners are aware that in 2015, the World Health Organization warned about the potential negative health effects of glyphosate, including the risk of cancer development based on experimental research results, and reclassified glyphosate as probably carcinogenic to humans. Glyphosate has been identified as a Group 2A carcinogen (probably carcinogenic in humans) by the World Health Organisation (WHO) international agency for research on cancer. It has been found to be bio-accumulative in human bodies over time.
3. There have been hundreds of scientific peer reviewed articles published in scientific and medical journals on the link between glyphosate and autoimmune and neurological conditions and diseases (including Alzheimer's, Dementia, Parkinson's, Gastrointestinal disorders, Obesity, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Autism and Cancer).
4. Your petitioners note that Glyphosate has been linked to pollution of water and land sources, with residues in food supplies, and remains in the soil for long after it has been applied. Scientific research has revealed that glyphosate cause structural changes in the microbial population of soils and ecosystems. The herbicide not only destroys the plant cells of plants but also destroys the microbiomes in the soil and human gut microbes influencing adverse health outcomes.

5. Due to the public health risks around glyphosate several countries (including Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, and Germany) and more than 40 councils in the UK have banned or partially banned its use.
6. Glyphosate has now been officially linked to cancer in court decisions in the USA. A recent case ended with \$2 billion being awarded in damages to individuals who claimed they were diagnosed with cancer after years of using Roundup. Several thousands of other lawsuits are understood by your petitioners currently to be pending against the manufacturers of Roundup regarding the product and its side effects, including a cohort of more than 300 farmers, alleging that working with the chemical has given them cancer.
7. This has led to the manufacturer of glyphosate, Bayer (formerly Monsanto), setting aside billions of dollars for settlements and litigation claims. Among measures to contain the legal damage as of June 2020 Bayer set aside \$11.6 billion for settlements and litigation claims linked to glyphosate. In 2021 Bayer placed an additional litigation provision of \$4.5 billion to brace for further unfavourable rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court.
8. Further, Bayer plans to replace glyphosate in weed killers by January 2023 for the United States residential market with other active ingredients in order to help manage litigation risk from unresolved cancer and public health lawsuits. Your petitioners believe this is already being instigated in Guernsey.
9. As part of the Biodiversity strategy the States of Guernsey are working to reduce the use of Pesticides and Herbicides to a minimum.
10. States Works have reassessed the situation recently and took the decision to withdraw the use of Glyphosate at the end of 2020 due to the effect that it was having on the environment and biodiversity and the increase of the chemical in raw water. States Works have switched over to manual control, use of acetic acid on paths and using electricity to kill noxious weeds. However, private contractors and farmers are still applying glyphosate not just for weed control but to accelerate crop dieback.
11. Amongst alternatives to glyphosate, Rootwave uses electricity to kill weeds without using chemical herbicides. Rootwave is becoming increasingly popular for treating invasive weed species such as Japanese Knotweed. It

effectively tackles Japanese knotweed and clears it by attacking the root and foliage allowing nature, plants and wildlife to thrive. Once treatment is finished, the public and local wildlife can enjoy the area immediately without the presence of chemical herbicide residues.

12. Guernsey Water reported in their Glyphosate Herbicide Risk Report 2020 that 'Amongst the many compounds that are regularly tested it is glyphosate that is now found in greatest concentration in our stored water reservoirs' and 'Although nearly ubiquitous the presence of Glyphosate concentrations is of most concern in the northern (largely urbanised) catchments, as it is in these areas that Glyphosate presently dominates'.
13. The Vale Pond stream transfer station was switched off due to an excessive concentration of Glyphosate following stream sample results in June 2019 of 3.01 ug/l (30 x MAC) and again in October 2021 of 3.66 ug/l. The Marais Stream exhibited similar raised concentrations of 2.54 ug/l (25 x MAC). The UK maximum admissible concentration (MAC) for individual herbicides of 0.1 ug/l (micrograms/litre) in treated water. Combined these two sources represent critical water resources for the north of the island. These waters are transferred to Juas and Longue Hougue reservoirs. The flushing of Glyphosate residues into stream systems following rainfall has become a concern island wide.
14. Guernsey Water indicates 'the potential consequences of further increases in glyphosate levels in streams are:
 - The potential loss of an additional three catchment resources in the north and west of Guernsey due to glyphosate pollution, these together with the Vale Pond and Marais streams contribute the largest portion of supply to northern reservoirs.
 - The increased risk of glyphosate exceedances in the treated drinking water supply.
 - The requirement to invest in glyphosate treatment resulting in significant cost to Guernsey Water customers and increased carbon emissions'.
15. The States of Guernsey Health and Safety Executive have recognised Glyphosate as a poisonous substance and withdrawn all 152 products containing Glyphosate for use in the garden or as an amateur product. This is regarded by the petitioners as a half measure. Glyphosate will still be available to professional users. The islands hundred or so farmers, growers,

landscape gardeners and the States itself will be able to continue using it for weed control provided they hold the NPTC certificate of competence.

16 Given:

The increasing number of legal claims world-wide concerning Glyphosate;

The number of jurisdictions acting to ban altogether or reduce the use and sale of Glyphosate;

The concerns and action being taken by States bodies to stop the use of Glyphosate;

The serious health implications and the damaging environmental and biodiversity effects of the chemical Glyphosate;

The need for public responsibility for safe practice;

The fact that there are alternatives to its use;

The rising levels of contamination of Glyphosate in Guernsey's water supply; and

The dependency of the island on its streams and stored open waters and

The historical precedence in requesting control of chemicals considered a risk to treated water supplies with restrictions placed on the use of several compounds (including Atrazine, Simazine, Chlorthal and Metaldehyde) in the past.

Your Petitioners are of the view that action should be taken in Guernsey to eradicate the threat to its inhabitants and its eco-structure posed by the continued use of Glyphosate on the island.

THESE PREMISES CONSIDERED, YOUR PETITIONERS humbly pray that the States may be pleased to resolve:

1. To agree that action should be taken in Guernsey to eradicate the threat to its inhabitants and its eco-structure posed by the continued use of Glyphosate on the island.

2. To direct the Committee *for* Employment & Social Security, by the end of the year 2023, in exercise of its powers under Regulation 11(8) of the Control of Poisonous Substances (Guernsey) Regulations, 2014, as amended, to revoke all existing approvals of plant protection products (pesticides) containing the active substance Glyphosate (CAS No.1071-83-6, EU No. 213-997-4), including those authorising the use, importation and sale to professional users.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS WILL EVER PRAY

GUERNSEY

This 16th day of November 2022

Deputy D.de Garis De Lisle

Deputy R G Prow

Deputy M A J Helyar

Deputy A C Dudley Owen

Deputy D J Mahoney

Deputy S E Aldwell

Deputy L C Queripel

The original signed Requete
is held by the States' Greffier