



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Lord Benyon
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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Anne Rowberry
BBKA Chair
The National Beekeeping Centre
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Dear Anne,

As Minister with responsibility for biosecurity, I am writing to thank the BBKA for your ongoing work to combat the serious threat posed by Asian hornet.

I understand that Asian Hornet Teams worked with National Bee Unit inspectors during the 2021 season and I was pleased to learn that, in the case of both the Ascot and Portsmouth outbreak, there was a successful response including rapid detection of a nest.

I appreciate the ongoing work that BBKA does throughout the year, for example, to raise and maintain awareness of Asian hornet among beekeepers. This work is crucial to our efforts to detect incursions sufficiently early.

While it remains the case that there is no evidence to suggest that Asian hornet has become established in the UK, it is of course very important to maintain vigilance. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the BBKA to respond to future outbreaks swiftly and effectively.

As we move into a new year which will no doubt bring fresh challenges, I wish you and your members continued success with your beekeeping and with your efforts to combat Asian hornet and other threats to our nation's Honey Bees.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON LORD BENYON