Comments submitted by: Individual, UK

Dear Sir,

I own a farm of over 400 acres which I have been involved with for nearly 50 years. I grow wheat, barley, oilseed rape for human consumption in grain stores on our premises and without effective rodent control we would have serious problems and be unable to continue. If rodent faeces are discovered in any sample then the load is returned to the farm at great cost and could then only be marketed for animal consumption. It is absolutely vital that effective rodenticides are retained for the above reasons.

I have also been involved in commercial forestry for a similar length of time and I confirm that grey squirrels are one of the worst types of vermin to have in these woodlands being extremely destructive and able to virtually write-off many types of hardwood plantation. Again without effective poisons this type of forestry would be virtually impossible. Trapping of course is one solution but this requires regular inspection every 24 hours and this is no longer possible for most woodland owners who do not employ full-time staff. It is alright for the Europeans because they mostly have red squirrels on the Continent which do no significant harm to hardwood plantations.

I cannot imagine anything more unhelpful or unnecessary than the proposals of which I have been informed.

Yours faithfully