

Grant MacDonald
116 The Ridgeway
Nelson
New Zealand

Dear Dr MacDonald,

Bee venom for addition to honey

I am writing on behalf of the Food Standards Agency, which is the UK's competent authority under the EU regulation on novel foods. The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) completed its assessment of bee venom as a novel food ingredient to be added to honey and was unable to conclude with certainty that bee venom is safe for consumers. Based on the ACNFP's advice, the UK issued an unfavorable opinion. The UK forwarded its initial assessment to the European Commission on 27 July 2010 and also informed you of this correspondence by email on the same day.

In accordance with the procedure laid down in Regulation (EC) No 258/97 concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients, the Commission forwarded the initial assessment report to other Member States on 5 August 2010 to provide them an opportunity to comment or raise reasoned objections to the UK assessment.

No objections to the UK initial assessment were raised during the 60 day comment period. It is therefore the accepted view among Member States that bee venom should not be approved to be marketed in the EU. The Commission received written comments from Hungary, Germany, Poland and Ireland which are enclosed for your information.

Accordingly, pursuant to Article 4.2 of Regulation (EC) No 258/97 concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients, I am now writing to inform you that bee venom as an ingredient to be added to honey

cannot be marketed in the European Union. We will be grateful if you could relay this information to the applicant company Nelson Honey NZ Ltd. We are sorry that this is not a more positive outcome.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Lawrie

Head of Novel Foods Unit

Cc Andreas Klepsch, European Commission