



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Uywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Department of  
Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs  
[www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

[helpline@defra.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@defra.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

22 May 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Rapid Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on *Diaprepes abbreviatus*

I am writing to seek your views on a UK Pest Risk Analysis for *Diaprepes abbreviatus*. A link to the rapid PRA can be found at the website given below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-risk-analyses/>

**We would welcome your views and comments on the PRA and the proposals for future action.**

In submitting any comments you may wish to focus on the summary, key uncertainties and conclusion sections of the risk assessments and to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Your view on the appropriateness of the suggested proposals for future actions?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty identified in the assessment/management measures?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?
- Have you reviewed the risk assessment and consider that you have nothing further to add?

This review applies to the UK and is being conducted by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, with the agreement of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Government. The objective of this consultation is to gather views from all interested sectors on the UK position. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

## Background

*Diaprepes abbreviatus* (Citrus root weevil) is a major pest of *Citrus*, root vegetables, ornamentals, and other commercial crops in the Caribbean and a few of the most southern states of the USA where it was unintentionally introduced. This weevil has recently been found in Madeira and the Canary Islands and is established in one tropical indoor site in the UK. During a commodity risk assessment of *Ligustrum* spp. (privet) from the UK conducted by EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), this pest was short listed as a possible pest of concern. An EFSA pest categorisation concluded that *D. abbreviatus* satisfies all the criteria to be regarded as a potential EU quarantine pest. A PRA was conducted to indicate whether this pest could establish elsewhere in the UK and whether statutory action is required.

## Recommendations for action

No statutory action is recommended.

*Diaprepes abbreviatus* only poses a risk to ornamental plants grown in tropical and subtropical glasshouses in the UK. Statutory action would therefore be inappropriate.

All responses should be sent to [plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto:plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk)

Responses should be received by **14 August 2024**.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully

Richard McIntosh  
Assistant Chief Plant Health Officer  
Defra  
T: +44 (0)208 026 2396  
M: +44 (0)7767 357817  
[richard.mcintosh@defra.gov.uk](mailto:richard.mcintosh@defra.gov.uk)