17th August, 1970.

Dr. M.W. Holdgate,
Cabinet Office,
Room 55G,
Great George Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Dr. Holdgate,

Irish Sea Bird Report

As manufacturers of products containing polychlorinated biphenyls, Monsanto has been concerned at the finding of PCBs in wildlife and with suggestions that these may have been implicated in deaths of sea-birds.

I have been charged with responsibility for co-ordinating the company's technical effort in Europe concerned with this problem and for seeking relevant information. I have, therefore, over a period of many months, been in close touch with several organisations concerned with environmental problems including the NERC, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Nature Conservancy (Monks Wood). From discussions with the NERC I learned of the proposed publication of the Report on the Irish Sea Bird Disaster and was led to believe that I would be able to see this report in draft and perhaps comment before publication. It has, in fact, been suggested that Monsanto should comment on the Irish Sea incident, but I believe that this would be more cogent if made after seeing the report.

I understand that you have responsibility for the co-ordination and issuing of this report and would be very glad to have your views on whether we could see the draft and whether it would be proper for some comment to be included in the final version.

Yours sincerely,

H.A. VODDEN

HAV/meh

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