TIMELINE OF LOBBYING EFFORTS

17 March

BPCA writes to Alok Sharma MP, Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) asking him to commit to protecting SMEs in the short term, and accelerate the roll out of all announced business contingency plans.

We release our ‘Advice for pest professionals operating during Covid-19 pandemic’ and ‘Should I go on the job?” guidance (which continues to be updated daily).

19 March

BPCA wrote to Prime Minister Boris Johnson, other cabinet ministers and devolved governments asking that pest management professionals be designated key workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

20 March

BPCA writes to schools and continues to urge Government to designate pest professionals as key workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

We developed a template letter for members to customise and give to their staff with school-age children.

22 March

Partial lockdown announced by Prime Minister, Boris Johnson.

23 March

BPCA releases a series of blog posts and press releases describing why pest professionals are key workers.

We reassure the pest management community they can continue to legally go to work as long as they follow social distancing guidance.

We create a letter template for members and non-members to use to write to their MPs asking for their support in getting pest management recognised as essential.

BPCA signs a joint letter with Basis, the Property Care Association, the Amenity Forum and the Invasive Non-Native Specialists Association calling on Defra to maintain key transport networks and amenities during potential lockdown periods.

24 March

BPCA held a webinar on the Covid-19 pandemic for pest professionals. It was attended by over 500 people and has been watched nearly 400 times on our YouTube channel.

We sent 410 letters to local authorities encouraging them to treat pest management professionals as key workers, by allowing their children to stay in school so that essential work can continue.

25 March

BBC Radio host talks to callers about pest management during Covid-19 lockdown, mentioning BPCA's lobbying efforts.

We launch a new press release 'Pest control critical to sustain public health during the Covid-19 crisis', calling for urgent action required to ensure pest management can continue to be administered.

We wrote to all 45 local resilience forums to explain why pest management is essential and offer our support in pest-related matters. LRFs are made up of local public services, like the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, and the Environment Agency.

26 March

The Department of Education in Northern Ireland confirms that pest management professionals are formally key workers during the Covid-19 pandemic.

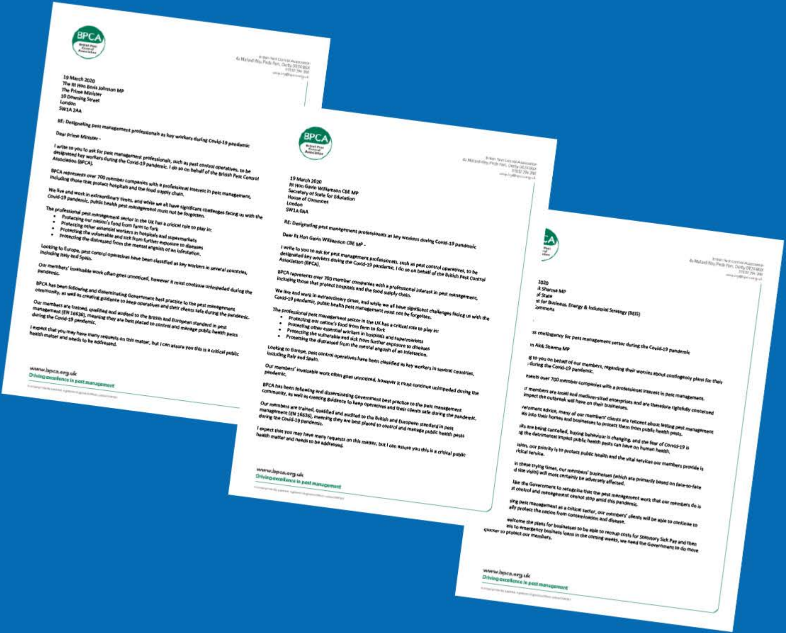
Members raise their concerns about the influx of Covid-19 disinfection services being advertised so BPCA release a position statement.

27 March

BPCA writes to all 33 local authorities in London, asking for parking charges to be scrapped during the Covid-19 pandemic.

30 March

BPCA creates two templates to help members keep their employees working on critical sites during the Covid-19 pandemic.



19 March 2020
The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

RE: Designating pest management professionals as key workers during Covid-19 pandemic

Dear Prime Minister -

I write to you to ask for pest management professionals, such as pest control operatives, to be designated key workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. I do so on behalf of the British Pest Control Association (BPCA).

BPCA represents over 700 member companies with a professional interest in pest management, including those that protect hospitals and the food supply chain.

We live and work in extraordinary times, and while we all have significant challenges facing us with the Covid-19 pandemic, public health pest management must not be forgotten.

The professional pest management sector in the UK has a critical role to play in:

- Protecting our nation's food from farm to fork
- Protecting other essential workers in hospitals and supermarkets
- Protecting the vulnerable and sick from further exposure to diseases
- Protecting the distressed from the mental anguish of an infestation.

Looking to Europe, pest control operatives have been classified as key workers in several countries, including Italy and Spain.

Our members' invaluable work often goes unnoticed, however it must continue unimpeded during the pandemic.

BPCA has been following and disseminating Government best practice to the pest management community, as well as creating guidance to keep operatives and their clients safe during the pandemic.

Our members are trained, qualified and audited to the British and European standard in pest management (EN 16636), meaning they are best placed to control and manage public health pests during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I expect that you may have many requests on this matter, but I can assure you this is a critical public health matter and needs to be addressed.

www.bpca.org.uk
Driving excellence in pest management

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19 March 2020
Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Secretary of State for Education
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

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2020
k Sharma MP
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nt for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Commons

ss contingency for pest management sector during the Covid-19 pandemic

in Alok Sharma MP

g to you on behalf of our members, regarding their worries about contingency plans for their
during the Covid-19 pandemic.

esents over 700 member companies with a professional interest in pest management.

r members are small and medium-sized enterprises and are therefore rightfully concerned
impact the outbreak will have on their businesses.

vernment advice, many of our members' clients are reticent about letting pest management
ls into their homes and businesses to protect them from public health pests.

its are being cancelled, buying behaviour is changing, and the fear of Covid-19 is
g the detrimental impact public health pests can have on human health.

sion, our priority is to protect public health and the vital services our members provide is
tical service.

in these trying times, our members' businesses (which are primarily based on face-to-face
d site visits) will most certainly be adversely affected.

like the Government to recognise that the pest management work that our members do is
st control and management cannot stop amid this pandemic.

sing pest management as a critical sector, our members' clients will be able to continue to
ally protect the nation from contamination and disease.

welcome the plans for businesses to be able to recoup costs for Statutory Sick Pay and then
els to emergency business loans in the coming weeks, we need the Government to do more
quicker to protect our members.

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Driving excellence in pest management

Just some of the letters sent by BPCA to the Prime Minister and many other cabinet politicians.

31 March

BPCA issues a press release urging householders to be vigilant to pest infestation during the Covid-19 crisis.

Our campaign to make councils reconsider reducing bin collections featured on LBC radio.

1 April

BPCA launches 'We think you're essential' survey to get a list of all the sites our sector is protecting during the lockdown.

3 April

We write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak MP, asking him to make the Small Business Grant Fund work for our sector.

6 April

The UK Government confirmed to BPCA that pest management professionals can continue to go to work when it's safe to do so.

7 April

BPCA held its first ever digital forum, replacing our cancelled regional pest control forums. We have speakers from BPCA, Bayer, Killgerm, States of Guernsey and Pestfix. Over 400 people attend.

8 April

BPCA writes to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Michael Gove MP giving him 141 reasons pest management needs to be considered essential during Covid-19 based on the information provided in the 'We think you're essential' survey.

13 April

Pest management is confirmed as an essential sector during the Covid-19 pandemic by George Eustice, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

At the time of writing Northern Ireland and England have confirmed pest professionals are key workers during the pandemic. Scotland has a different approach and defers the decision making to individual local authorities, although their looser definition seems to adequately cover pest management.

We're still working on getting Wales to confirm pest management as an essential sector.

BPCA
British Pest
Control
Association