



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Secretary of State Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Ms J Kearsley
HM Senior Coroner
Greater Manchester North
HM Coroner's Court
Floors 2 & 3
Newgate House, Newgate
Rochdale, OL16 1AT

Your ref: [REDACTED]
Our ref: [REDACTED]

4 March 2025

Dear Joanna,

Thank you for your letter of 7 February regarding the death of Carla Louise James. I was very sorry to hear about this tragic incident.

Defra is responsible for trade in regulated plants and plant material including seeds for planting. This includes responsibility for the intellectual property rights of plant breeders, plant variety registration and setting standards for marketing and certification of seed for planting and other regulated plant material. However, Defra does not have legislative powers to require health warnings, or similar, to be included when potentially hazardous plants and plant products are imported into GB.

Given this, my officials have been in touch with the Department for Business and Trade (DBT). We understand this issue is being examined by the Office for Product Safety and Standards and that they intend to write to you. It goes without saying that Defra will support the work of DBT in any way we can.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]