

Use of glyphosate for weed control

Does your organisation use 'Roundup' or any other glyphosate for weed control?

The core Grounds Maintenance Services are delivered through nine (9) contracts. Six (6) of these are provided by external private sector organisation, Idverde UK Ltd, and three (3) are provided by our in-house, Direct Labour Organisation (DLO).

Under Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) 1, 2 and 3, we do use glyphosate products: Roundup Provantage; Roundup Proactive; and Nomix Dual.

How many workers are directly involved in its administration i.e. how many workers spray or otherwise are risked to exposure to the chemical?

Direct Labour Organisation (DLO 1- Waterloo Place, Waterside, Collon Terrace, Strabane). At present, there are 29 staff working out of Londonderry/Derry depot. This year, there have been 10 operatives (PA1 and PA6A Qualified) involved in spraying and the preparation of herbicides.

Direct Labour Organisation (DLO 2- Moyle, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Limavady). At present, there are 10 staff working out of Ballymoney depot. This year, there have been 3 operatives (PA1 and PA6A Qualified) involved in spraying and the preparation of herbicides.

Direct Labour Organisation (DLO 3- Antrim, Newtownabbey 1, Newtownabbey 2). At present, there are 18 staff working out of Antrim and Rathcoole depot). This year, there have been 4 operatives (PA1 and PA6A Qualified) involved in spraying and the preparation of herbicides.

Apart from the operatives using the sprayers, the others members of staff have minimal contact with the herbicides if any. There are also chemical lock boxes in the vehicles for the safe transport of herbicides.

Have you any plans to end the use of glyphosate given health concerns?

It is our intention in the new Grounds Maintenance Services contracts, to greatly reduce or replace the use of glyphosate with alternatives which have less of an environmental impact. In addition, our aim is greater mulching of amenity planting areas and sourcing alternative methods of weed control on hard surface areas.