

## GIANT BEES URGE CAMERON TO DRAW UP BEE ACTION PLAN

### THE 64,000 SIGNATURE QUESTION: WILL CAMERON ACT TO PROTECT BEES?

Giant bees descended on Downing Street today to sting the government into delivering a Bee Action Plan, as part of Friends of the Earth's Bee Cause campaign. They delivered over 64,000 demands from UK residents, gathered by Friends of the Earth and Garden Organic.

The event comes as pressure mounts on the Government to act on bee decline. 89 MPs from across the political parties have called on the Prime Minister to introduce a Bee Action Plan and 125 attended an event on 15 January to express their concern about falling bee numbers. It also coincides with the Advisory Committee on Pesticides discussion on neonicotinoid pesticides, widely believed to be a contributing factor to bee decline.

The bees asked the Prime Minister to make 2013 the Year of the Bee and agree an action plan that should include restoring habitat, reducing pesticide use and protecting all species of bees. Numbers of UK bees have fallen fast for several years and two bumblebee species are already extinct.

Friends of the Earth senior campaigner Paul de Zylva said:

"Britain is losing its bees fast and only urgent government action will stop it. Bees are vital to our way of life, helping our gardens, parks and farms to thrive. The British public is waking up to this issue; the big question is will Mr Cameron make 2013 the year of the bee by agreeing a Bee Action Plan."