



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

**Dr Thérèse Coffey MP**  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
for the Environment

T 03459 335577  
defra.helpline@defra.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Rt Hon George Howarth MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Your ref: J Wallace  
Our ref: MC2019/08498/AC

24 April 2019

*Dear George,*

Thank you for your email of 17 April to the Secretary of State on behalf of your constituent about the Environment Bill. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP) sets out how, over a generation, we will replenish depleted soils, rid seas and rivers of the rubbish affecting our planet, cut greenhouse gas emissions, cleanse our air of toxic pollutants and develop cleaner, more sustainable energy sources. We will also manage pressures on the environment, by mitigating and adapting to climate change, minimising waste, managing our exposure to chemicals and enhancing biosecurity. As part of the 25 YEP, the Government committed to creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat as part of a Nature Recovery Network and will develop a new strategy for nature which will help us protect our most important wildlife sites and species. The new statutory cycle of environmental planning, monitoring and reporting will incentivise sustained improvement in our natural world and ensure that we deliver our commitments, now and in the future. We will explore options for including additional cross-cutting targets for environmental improvement as part of this framework.

On 19 December 2018 the Government published the draft Environment (Principles and Governance) clauses; these draft clauses will be critical to our new Environment Bill. The clauses set out how we will create a pioneering new system of green governance, establishing an Office for Environmental Protection, to ensure we succeed in leaving the environment in a better condition than we found it. The draft clauses also introduce a set of environmental principles that will be used to guide future Government policy making and place the 25 YEP on a statutory footing. These measures are only part of a broader intended Environment Bill, which will include ambitious legislative measures to take direct action to address the biggest environmental priorities of our age: air quality, nature recovery, waste and resource efficiency, and water resource management. The Environment Bill will be introduced early in the second Session of this Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

*Thérèse*

**DR THERESE COFFEY MP**