



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP
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Dame Glenys Stacey
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27th October 2022

Dear Dame Glenys,

Dear Dame Glenys,

Thank you for your letter of 6th October. I am writing to you to update you on our progress in implementing the Environment Act 2021 (section 4(9)) requirement to lay target statutory instruments by 31st October 2022. I understand that a previous Secretary of State, George Eustice MP, had already alerted you that the deadline was likely to be missed.

In March 2022, the Government launched its consultation on targets relating to the Environment Act 2021, determined to leave our environment in a better state than we found it. It included around 800 pages of evidence that were published following three years of developing the scientific and economic evidence. The consultation closed on 27th June. We received over 180,000 responses, which all needed to be analysed and carefully considered. Thank you for the detailed advice that you provided as part of this. In light of the volume of material and the significant public response we will not be able to publish targets by 31st October, as required by the Act. However, I would like to reassure you that we will continue to work at pace in order to lay draft statutory instruments as soon as practicable.

We remain committed to our future target to halt the decline in species by 2030 as included on the face of the Environment Act, and to bring forward the wider suite of targets specified under the Act.

I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Thérèse Coffey

THE RT HON THÉRÈSE COFFEY MP