



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
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1 April 2022

Dear Dame Glenys,

As you know, my department has committed to reform of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) process to ensure that it adequately supports our ambitions for nature, including our new world leading targets.

Our proposals for how to reform the HRA have now been set out in the Nature Recovery Green Paper, published on 16 March.

These proposals reflect the recommendations of the HRA Review working group led by Lord Benyon in 2021. A key aim of the review principles is that any reforms must maintain or enhance protections. The recommendations of the group have also been published alongside the Green Paper.

I have committed to consulting the Office for Environmental Protection on any proposal for HRA reform, and in line with this, I am writing to ask that the OEP provides advice to my officials on our proposals, as set out in chapter 3.2.1 of the Green Paper.

On the wider contents of the Green Paper, if the OEP has observations or comments relating to enforcement and enforcement functions then I would also, of course, be interested to hear these. The proposals in chapter 6 concerning public body reform may be of particular interest to you, given your involvement with the review of farming regulation.

I enclose a copy of the Nature Recovery Green Paper. I would be most grateful if you could provide advice by 11 May, to coincide with the end of the consultation period.

RT HON GEORGE EUSTICE MP

