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Natalie Prosser
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Date: 29/05/2025

Dear Natalie,

Forthcoming Government responses to OEP reports

I am writing regarding the OEP monitoring reports on local nature recovery strategies and environmental inspections, published earlier this Summer. Thank you for these reports which we considered carefully over Summer Recess.

I am mindful of the Environment Act duty for the Secretary of State to lay a response before parliament within three months. As you are aware, there was a Ministerial reshuffle on 5 and 6 September, before the House of Commons rose on 16 September. I regret to inform you that new Ministers have not had chance to agree to the Government's responses in time for us to lay them before Parliament before Conference Recess.

Unfortunately, this now means we will not be able to respond within three months as intended, as we must wait for Parliament to be sitting again to be able to lay our responses. We will endeavour to deliver this once Parliament returns.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss,

Yours sincerely

Edward Barker
Director
Natural Environment, Trees and Landscapes