



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Matthew Pennycook MP

Minister of State for Housing and Planning

2 Marsham Street

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Dame Glenys Stacey
Chair, Office for Environmental Protection

17 July 2025

Dear Dame Glenys,

NATURE RESTORATION FUND – GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS

Thank you once again for the considered and constructive advice the Office for Environmental Protection recently provided in respect of Part 3 of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill relating to development and nature recovery.

The government remains firmly of the view that when it comes to development and the environment, we can do better than the status quo, which too often sees both sustainable housebuilding and nature recovery stall. Instead of environmental protections being seen as barriers to growth, we are determined to unlock a win-win for the economy and for nature.

As you know, we have taken very seriously the concerns expressed by those who are not yet convinced that the provisions in the Bill provide the necessary certainty that the Nature Restoration Fund will deliver in practice the potential environmental benefits it offers and who question whether the safeguards in the Bill are sufficiently robust. That is why at both the Bill's Committee and Report Stages I committed to reflecting on what more might be done to ensure everyone is confident that the outcomes for nature provided for by this part of the Bill will be positive.

Having done so, and carefully considered your advice as part of that exercise, the government has developed a comprehensive package of amendments that we propose to table for consideration during the Lords Committee Stage of the Bill. The amendment list accompanies this letter.

As you will note, the amendment package speaks directly to the various specific matters raised in your advice, providing a number of additional safeguards as well as strengthening and making more explicit those already included in the Bill. We have also taken the opportunity to address wider issues raised during the debates in Parliament to clarify how the Nature Restoration Fund will operate going forward.

Taken together, we are confident this package substantively addresses the points raised in your advice, and will provide confidence that the Nature Restoration Fund delivers the improved outcomes for nature that are at the core of the model.

I now look forward to continued engagement with you and your team as we turn to the detailed work of implementation.

Best Wishes,

MATTHEW PENNYCOOK MP

Minister of State for Housing and Planning