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Ms Katrina Godfrey
Permanent Secretary
Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Klondyke Building, Cormac Avenue
Gasworks Business Park,
Malone Lower, Belfast,
BT7 2JA

By email only

15 September 2023

Dear Katrina,

Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland

Thank you for your letter of the 11 September updating on your position regarding publication of a new Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) for Northern Ireland.

Whilst I appreciate the complexity of the situation and difficult position that officials find themselves in, as you say, the OEP would have preferred a different outcome given the legal requirements of the Environment Act 2021, and we remain disappointed.

It is imperative that deferral of the EIP does not impact on the much-needed environmental protection and improvement in Northern Ireland, and we would welcome further discussion on your plans in this regard.

As offered in your letter, we will take up the opportunity to discuss the matters you raise and we are in contact with Tracey's office to make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Prosser".

Natalie Prosser
Chief Executive Officer of the Office for Environmental Protection



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