



# Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

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Dame Glenys  
County Hall  
Spetchley Road  
Worcester  
WR5 2NP

25 July 2023

Dear Dame Glenys,

Thank you for your letter of 6 July in which you raised two matters pertaining to the Retained EU Law Act.

## **The National Emission Ceilings Regulations (NECR)**

We remain committed to reducing emissions of the 5 key air pollutants and achieving the emission reduction targets set out in the National Emission Ceilings Regulations (NECR). The targets in the NECR remain unchanged and there is no reduction in the level of environmental protection. Our intent in removing regulations 9 and 10 of the NECR is to reduce administrative burdens and aid transparency regarding air quality emissions policy.

The NAPCP set out policies and measures which will be considered further to reduce emissions in line with the emissions ceilings. It does not set out a detailed delivery plan for ensuring the emissions ceilings are met. In England the emissions targets and the delivery plan of policies and measures to achieve those targets are set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland set out their emissions policies in their own respective policy documents including the Cleaner Air for Scotland 2 Plan and the Clean Air for Wales Plan and the upcoming Northern Ireland Clean Air Strategy.

We are maintaining the reporting provisions contained in the NECR to ensure transparency and scrutiny of the UK's progress. The NECR provisions requiring the preparation and publication of an emissions inventory and emissions projections will be maintained.

## **Implications for assimilated environmental law**

You have also raised concerns about the assimilation of REUL from the end of 2023. We do not share your concerns that the passing of the REUL Act has negative implications for environmental law.

We have been clear in Parliament about our commitment to uphold environmental protections. Moreover, from 1 November 2023 there will also be a legal duty on Ministers to have due regard to the Environmental Principles Policy Statement when making policies using the Act's powers. This Government uses expert advice when making provisions that relate to the environment.

Yours sincerely,