



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, Chair - Environmental Audit
Committee
Geraint Davies, Chair - EFRA Select Committee
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

11th May 2022

Dear Chairs

I am delighted to confirm the laying of the draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement (“the Policy Statement”) and an accompanying Explanatory Memorandum before Parliament today.

The Environment Act 2021 (“the Act”) places a legal duty on Ministers of the Crown to have ‘due regard’ to the Policy Statement when making policy.

The Policy Statement is an important document and laying it before Parliament is a major milestone. It sets out how five internationally recognised principles should be interpreted and proportionately applied to future policymaking. This will contribute to the achievement of the environmental objectives set out in the Act, our ambition for placing environmental considerations at the heart of policymaking across government and to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than that in which we found it.

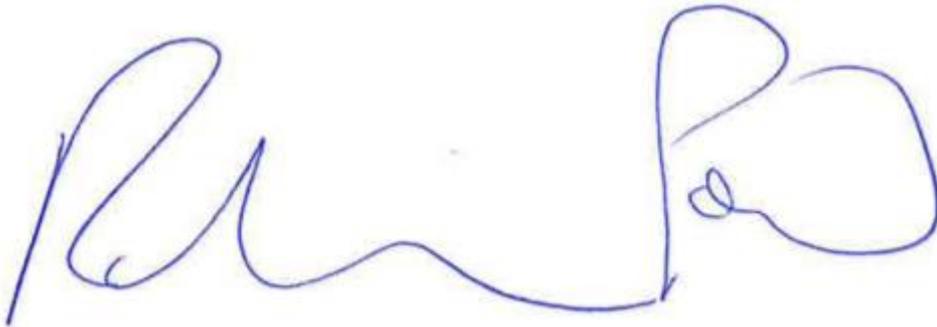
This Policy Statement applies to the development of policy by Ministers of the Crown in England, and when developing policy relating to reserved matters in Scotland. We will continue to work with the devolved administrations to ensure our environmental approaches work together.

Section 18 of the Environment Act provides for 21 sitting days for scrutiny. There will then be an implementation period before the duty comes into force to allow government departments to prepare.

I would welcome the committees’ thoughts and advice on the Policy Statement to ensure such a vital document meets the needs of our environmental commitments. I would be happy to receive questions and will make myself available for a meeting should any of the committees wish to discuss the documents with me.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Pow', with a large, stylized 'P' and 'O'.

REBECCA POW MP