



HOUSE OF LORDS

Lord Cameron of Dillington

Chair of the Select Committee on Land Use in England

House of Lords

SWIA 0PW

Rt Hon Ranil Jayawardena MP

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

13 October 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

I am Chair of the Select Committee on Land Use in England, a special inquiry Committee of the House of Lords which has been taking evidence throughout this year, with a reporting deadline of 30 November 2022.

The Committee previously held an evidence session with your predecessor, Rt Hon George Eustice MP, on 18 July. We discussed a range of matters, including the Government's commitment in its food strategy to "publish a land use framework that will reflect all our objectives for English Agriculture, the environment and net zero" and that this framework "will also reflect and respond to the work of the House of Lords special inquiry committee into land use in England".

The Committee has since noted the publication of the new administration's Growth Plan, as well as the subsequent Government statement that

"...we will be looking at the frameworks for regulation, innovation and investment that impact farmers and land managers, to make sure that our policies are best placed to both boost food production and protect the environment. This includes looking at how best to deliver the Environmental Land Management schemes to see where and how improvements can be made, and we will continue to work closely with the sector to ensure these are designed and delivered in their best interests".

The Committee's inquiry is ongoing and we have yet to make any formal conclusions or recommendations on a potential land use framework for England. Nevertheless, any change of Government policy is self-evidently of interest to us. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide clarity on the following questions of relevance to our work:

1. Do you maintain the commitment to the publication of a land use framework, and for any such framework to "reflect and respond to" the work of this Committee?



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2. If so, what consideration have you given, if any, to your approach to the framework? Do you intend your administration's approach to change from that of the previous administration, which was set out in evidence given to our Committee on 18 July?
3. you provide more clarity on your plans for planning reform and investment zones and, in particular, their implications for land use policy in England? How, and when, do you intend to consult on these plans?
4. How will you ensure these plans are consistent with existing Government commitments on net zero, nature recovery and food security?
5. Can you explain the thinking behind your decision to review Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS) and associated farm support? How will you reduce uncertainty while reviewing the schemes?

Our Committee only has a few weeks of its inquiry left to run and is very keen to receive clarity on these questions in order that it may consider this when preparing its report. I would therefore be grateful if you could respond to my letter as soon as possible, and in any event no later than **Wednesday 9 November**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Lord Cameron of Dillington
Chair, Select Committee on Land Use in England