



Department  
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Mr Toby Perkins MP  
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee  
House of Commons  
Palace of Westminster  
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29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

Dear Toby,

Thank you for your letter following up on the two recommendations of the Environment Audit Committee's 'Environmental audit in the 2019 Parliament' report.

The first recommendation related to the post-legislative review of the Environment Act (2021). Post legislative scrutiny is typically expected three to five years after Royal Assent, when the responsible department must submit a memorandum to the relevant Commons departmental select committee. For this Act, the expected timeframe for issuing the memorandum would be between November 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 and November 9<sup>th</sup> 2026. Policy officials are working to an expectation of issuing the memorandum in 2026, in advance of the November deadline.

Under the Environment Act (2021), it is a statutory requirement for government to complete a review of its Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) at least every five years. The Secretary of State must also prepare annual reports on the implementation of the current EIP.

The government has launched a rapid review of the EIP (2023), and we are working across government and with a wide range of stakeholders, businesses, local authorities and civil society to develop new ambitious plans to protect and restore our natural environment.

The second recommendation related to the scrutiny of the Seventh Carbon Budget in Parliament. The Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero will consider your recommendations with the attention they deserve and reply in due course.

Sincerely,

**THE RT HON STEVE REED OBE MP**