



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Baroness Hayman of Ullock
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair, EFRA Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Ref: Animal & Plant Health
Agency site – approval of
SCAH Master Outline
Planning Application

January 2025

Dear Alistair,

Redevelopment of Animal and Plant Health Agency Facility at Weybridge

Congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee.

I am writing to update you on the plans for the Science Capability in Animal Health (SCAH) Programme to re-develop, the Animal and Plant Health Agency's (APHA) Weybridge site.

I know that the EFRA Committee has a close interest in this programme which will safeguard and transform the Weybridge site, to manage the risks associated with animal diseases, as a key part of the UK wide biosecurity capability.

I am pleased to tell you that in the Budget the Chancellor announced £208 million in 2024-25 and 2025-26 to support the transformation of the facility. This will allow us to make progress with the redevelopment and enhance our ability to respond to the threat disease outbreaks pose to health, farming, food security, trade, and the economy.

This funding will allow us to begin procurement for the contractors for the main redevelopment, and to progress with completing the design of the new facilities.

I am also pleased to tell you that the Master Outline Planning Application for the redevelopment was approved by Runnymede Borough Council Planning Committee on 23 October 2024.

I believe you arranged a visit to the site in December - I hope you found this visit useful. I look forward to our continued engagement as these plans develop.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suet Hayman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK