



Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

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Rt Hon Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair, EFRA Select Committee
House of Commons
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Ref: Animal & Plant Health
Agency site – National
Biosecurity Centre

February 2025

Dear Alistair,

Establishing a National Biosecurity Centre - Weybridge

I know you had the opportunity recently to visit the Animal and Plant Health Agency site at Weybridge and hear about the vital science supporting UK biosecurity carried out at the facility.

As you know the site is in need of redevelopment, so I am pleased that our plans for redevelopment are progressing. Planning consent for the project was secured at the end of last year, design work on the new science hubs is on track, and early construction projects to prepare the site for the main redevelopment are underway. Last Autumn, the Chancellor announced £208m funding to allow us to make progress with the next stages of the work.

I am also keen to ensure that the importance of this vital facility is recognised. I am therefore writing to let you know that we propose to adopt a new branding - the National Biosecurity Centre – Weybridge.

APHA Weybridge is a global centre of expertise; it contains the largest concentration of global disease reference laboratories anywhere in the world and is the sole global reference laboratory for Antimicrobial Resistance. That will continue to be the case, but the change of name recognises the importance of this facility.

I know that you will continue to take a close interest in the progress of the re-development, and I will endeavour to keep you updated as our work progresses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Hayman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.

BARONESS HAYMAN OF ULLOCK

MINISTER FOR ANIMAL WELFARE AND BIOSECURITY