



**Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs**

Mary Creagh CBE MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Nature

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Alistair Carmichael
Chair of the Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs Committee
London, SW1A 0AA

26th January 2025

Dear Alistair,

INTERIM CHAIR FOR THE OFFICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

I am writing to inform you of the Secretary of State's intention to appoint an interim Chair of the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP). There is a need for interim leadership to ensure continuity following the end of Dame Glenys's term on 31 January 2026.

The Secretary of State proposes to appoint Julie Hill, a current non-executive member of the OEP Board, for a strictly time-limited period of four months. This would provide stability while the permanent appointment process concludes.

Julie Hill is well placed to undertake this short-term role. As an existing Board member, she has a strong understanding of the OEP's statutory remit and regulatory context, and she brings substantial senior leadership and chairing experience across the environmental and public sectors. She commands the confidence of the Board and key stakeholders.

Andrew Muir, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, and the Commissioner for Public Appointments are both content with the proposed approach.

I hope that writing at this stage is helpful in ensuring you are properly sighted on the proposal, while also recognising the practical need to confirm interim arrangements before 31 January, given the end of Dame Glenys's term.

I am copying this letter to Toby Perkins, Chair of Environmental Audit Committee.

Yours ever
MC

MARY CREAGH CBE MP