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05 February 2026

Dear Alistair

I am delighted to have been appointed as Interim Chair of the OEP whilst Defra and DAERA conclude a permanent appointment after Dame Glenys Stacey's term as Chair came to an end.

I know well from my role on the OEP's Board since its inception how critical our relationships with many across government, Parliament, the Assembly, public bodies, academia and civil society are to our work to protect and improve the environment in England and Northern Ireland. Thank you for your continued engagement and support, and the interest you've taken in our work.

With recent publication of our reports on progress in improving the natural environment in England, and on protected wildlife sites, and upcoming reports into the nutrient action programme regulations in Northern Ireland, and on inspection regimes in the waste and installations sector, we continue to have an active portfolio of work.

I know Natalie and the team look forward to those relations continuing and strengthening and, for my part, I look forward to the opportunities I'll have to join them, whilst in this interim role.

Thank you once again, and best wishes,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Hill", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julie Hill MBE
Interim Chair, Office for Environmental Protection

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