

**Baroness Sheehan**

Chair, House of Lords Environment & Climate Change Committee  
House of Lords  
SW1A 0PW

22 April 2026

**Sent via email**

Dear Baroness Sheehan

**Waste Data: letter dated 24 March**

It has this morning come to my attention that three numbers in one of the tables in my letter to you of 24<sup>th</sup> March were incorrect. I apologise unreservedly for this lapse, and wish to correct the record.

You will recall that the committee had asked me for the number of illegal dumps over 20,000 tonnes currently active in England. My response contained two tables, the first of which referenced our answer to a previous question from the Committee asking for the number of sites that were similar or bigger in size to Hoad's Wood.

In that table we stated the following sites and waste amounts:

- BB11 3QS, Copy Wood Farm-New Road, Burnley, 666000 tonnes
- CW97RR, land off Cookes Lane/Holford Forest Farm Limited, Cookes Lane, Lostock Green, Northwich, 400,000 tonnes
- Pendarvon, Camborne 560,000 tonnes.

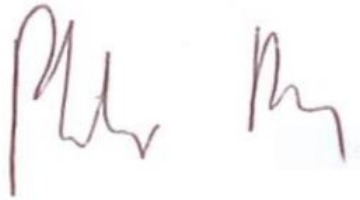
The tonnages for these three sites were incorrect. As I said in my evidence, tonnages are estimates and will change frequently. They are also a poor metric for severity of risk or pollution. However, for the avoidance of doubt, these numbers have not changed because of new surveys or other information coming to light: this was an error in copying numbers into the table.

The correct tonnages are:

- BB11 3QS, Copy Wood Farm-New Road, Burnley, 25,000 tonnes
- CW97RR, land off Cookes Lane/Holford Forest Farm Limited, Cookes Lane, Lostock Green, Northwich, 280,000 tonnes
- Pendarvon, Camborne 56,000 tonnes.

Improving transparency in illegal waste data – even when there is uncertainty – has rightly been highlighted by your committee as an urgent priority. We are making good progress in preparing to publish our list of highest risk sites, and intend to do so once the Pre-Election Period for the Local Elections has ended. I will update the Committee when that data has been published.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'Philip Duffy', is positioned above the typed name.

**Philip Duffy**

Chief Executive Environment Agency