



HOUSE OF LORDS

Baroness Sheehan
Chair of the Environment and Climate Change
Committee
House of Lords
London
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Philip Duffy
Chief Executive
Environment Agency

4 June 2026

Dear Philip,

Thank you for your letters of 19 May and 22 May following your appearance before the Committee on 25 March. We are grateful for the clarification you have given, particularly in relation to staffing allocations, the additional powers you consider necessary to tackle waste crime and the list of high priority waste sites that you are focussing on.

Many of the issues you raise will need to be pursued in partnership with Defra. We note the legislative changes that you suggest and trust that you will be working with government colleagues to get them onto the statute book. From our perspective, we will write to the Government in due course to make the case for legislative changes, where necessary, to give you the powers you need to fight waste crime.

We are disappointed that you have not offered clarity on the allocation of additional funding that was made available to you in March 2026. In your evidence you said that the £45 million would spread over three years by “£9 million, £15 million, £21 million”. However, you told us that you would set out the exact profile in writing. We note that you have not done so and request that your office sends through this information as soon as possible.

We look forward to receiving an update on the outcomes of your 16-week campaign on waste crime, implementing the Government’s Waste Crime Action Plan. In this context, we would like to invite you to appear before the Committee in early September 2026 to discuss your progress and the lessons learned from the campaign.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Sheehan, Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee