



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Toby Perkins
Chair
Environmental Audit Committee
House of Commons
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Dear Toby,

PUBLICATION OF GOVERNMENT'S 2025/26 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

I am writing to inform you that today we have published our annual assessment of progress in delivering the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) over the reporting period April 2025 to March 2026. This is the eighth annual progress report and the first since the revised EIP was published in December 2025. The revised EIP, and target delivery plans, set us on a clearer path to deliver our long-term environmental goals and Environment Act targets. Over the reporting period, we have progressed a broad and ambitious programme of reform, investment and delivery across the EIP. Considerable work remains but we are taking positive steps and strengthening our evidence base to support long-term environmental improvement.

Alongside this report, we have also published the government's response to the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) annual assessment of progress for 2024 to 2025 well ahead of the statutory deadline in January 2027. We have also laid a revised statement that explains the government's approach to monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the condition of the natural environment, in line with the requirements of section 16 of the Environment Act.

Together, these reports better enable external scrutiny and transparency of our progress and ensure delivery planning is informed by monitoring and evaluation learning. I am grateful for the work of the Committee whose scrutiny helps shape our approach.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Creagh CBE MP
Minister for Nature