



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

2 July 2021

Dear Philip,

Thank you for sharing with me an advance copy of your Committee's recently published report '*Biodiversity in the UK: bloom or bust?*', the result of your Committee's Inquiry on Biodiversity and Ecosystems.

I was pleased to give evidence to your Committee following the publication of Professor Dasgupta's independent, global review on the economics of biodiversity. As you know, I chaired the Dasgupta Review's expert Advisory Panel and was the lead Treasury Minister responsible for the Government's response to the Dasgupta Review, published last month. This is an area of policy I have personally championed over the last two years and to which I am committed to seeing us make progress on.

The Government's recently published response to the Dasgupta Review set out a number of important ways in which we are seeking to embed nature into economic and financial decision making, which will be vital if we are to make sustained progress on this issue. This includes action through the planning system with our extension of Biodiversity Net Gain to new Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects; our commitment that new bilateral aid will do no harm to nature and our continued financial support for the private sector-led Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures. It also includes our inclusion of biodiversity expenditures in the UK's Green Financing Framework (for green gilts) published on 30 June; our further funding to the Office for National Statistics for the development of improved natural capital estimates, and more besides. In light of Professor Dasgupta's findings, the Government also recently committed to a legally binding target on species abundance in England for 2030, aiming to halt the decline of nature; and published ambitious Tree and Peat Action Plans for England.

The Government response itself noted that these actions will not be the final word on our path to delivering a nature positive future. I trust the Committee will reflect on the full range of Government action as it continues its important work on these issues, to which I look forward to contributing.

My colleague, the Environment Secretary, who is copied to this letter, will respond in due course on behalf of the Government to your Committee's report and recommendations, to which HM Treasury will be contributing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kemi Badenoch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KEMI BADENOCH MP
Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury