

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY FORUM

c/o Society for the Environment

EC1.1 Enterprise Centre, Coventry Technology Park, Coventry CV1 2TT

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

9 October 2019

Dear Mr Hancock

I am contacting you on behalf of the Environmental Policy Forum (EPF), a network of UK environmental professional bodies promoting environmental sustainability and resilience for the public benefit. The EPF's member bodies have a collective membership of around 70,000 environmental professionals, many of whom are individually chartered in environmental practice, science and engineering disciplines.

We are writing with regards to the upcoming Environmental Bill and the opportunities it provides for tackling the many health and wellbeing-related challenges we face. We are sure you will agree that the anticipated leading sections of the Bill on air quality, nature, water, and resources and waste reflect four hugely important factors in determining our health and wellbeing. To be physically and mentally healthy, we need sustainable access to clean air, thriving biodiversity, safe high-quality water, and proper waste handling and management. We need to recognise that currently through poor environmental conditions we often further adversely impact the health and wellbeing of those members of society who can least do anything about it, and the impact of air pollution on public health is an example of this. These issues also have serious financial implications for the National Health Service.

Government has taken welcome steps to improve the environment and, by extension, human health and wellbeing, most notably via the introduction of the upcoming Environment Bill – alongside commitments outlined within the 25 Year Environment Plan and the Resources and Waste and Clean Air Strategies. However, in a time of Climate and Ecological Emergency – coupled with the risks to standards posed by Brexit – the opportunity provided by the Environment Bill must be fully seized to ensure the Government is able to realise its commitment to 'leave the environment in a better state than we found it'.

To deliver on this aspiration we'd like to encourage you to seek robust targets for air quality and measures to deliver a Nature Recovery Network that could make a significant contribution to improving the mental and physical health of the nation.

To this end we are therefore seeking your active support in calling for the final Environment Bill to ensure:

- A commitment to non-regression from EU environmental standards, providing assurance that the environment will be safeguarded in any Brexit scenario
- The inclusion of credible environmental targets which establish a coherent long-term direction, as well as outlining a clear process by which targets will be set
- Government accountability for enacting policies which enable the delivery of these environmental targets.

The EPF stands ready to advise or otherwise assist. Our organisations are committed to working with parliamentarians to achieve our mutual goal of an improved environment for current and future generations. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns with you further and to explore how we can best work with you, by accessing the collective expertise of our members.

Yours sincerely,

Professor William Pope
Chair, Environmental Policy Forum
Chair, Society for the Environment

Jason Reeves
Head of Policy and Communications,
Chartered Institute of Ecology and
Environmental Management



Pat Jennings
Head of Policy & Communications,
Chartered Institution of Wastes
Management



Martin Baxter
Chief Policy Advisor, IEMA

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to sustainability

Adam Donnan
CEO, Institution of Environmental
Sciences



Dr Colin Church
CEO, The Institute of Materials, Minerals
and Mining



Dr Emma Wilcox
CEO, Society for the Environment



Notes

1. The Environmental Policy Forum (EPF) is a membership group established to provide the opportunity for collaboration, learning, dialogue and debate amongst professionals across the environmental disciplines. We work together to influence environmental policy and its formulation by ensuring that environmental sustainability is high on policy agendas.

<https://www.envpolicyforum.org.uk/>

2. The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) is the leading professional membership body representing and supporting 5,500 ecologists and environmental managers in the UK, Ireland and abroad. Our Vision is of a society which values the natural environment and recognises the contribution of professional ecologists and environmental managers to its conservation.

www.cieem.net

3. The Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) is the leading professional body for the waste management sector representing around 6,000 individuals in the UK. Established in 1898, CIWM is a non-profit making organisation, dedicated to the promotion of professional competence amongst waste managers. CIWM seeks to raise standards for those working in and with the sector by producing best practice guidance, developing educational and training initiatives, and providing information on key waste-related issues.

www.ciwm.co.uk

4. The Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) is the membership body for more than 14,000 environment and sustainability professionals worldwide. We support individuals and organisations in setting and achieving globally recognised standards for sustainable practice, in turn driving the development and uptake of sustainability skills. We add value for our members by providing the knowledge, connections and recognition necessary to lead change within organisations at all levels. We are independent and international. We apply the combined expertise of our members to provide evidence and influence decision-making, working towards our vision of transforming the world to sustainability.

www.iema.net

5. The Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) is a membership organisation that represents professionals from fields as diverse as air quality, land contamination and education - wherever you find environmental work underpinned by science. A visionary organisation leading debate, dissemination and promotion of environmental science and sustainability, the IES promotes an evidence-based approach to decision and policy making.

www.the-ies.org

6. The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) is a major UK engineering institution whose activities encompass the whole materials cycle, from exploration and extraction, through characterisation, processing, forming, finishing and application, to product recycling and land reuse. It exists to promote and develop all aspects of materials science and engineering, geology, mining and associated technologies, mineral and petroleum engineering and extraction metallurgy, as a leading authority in the worldwide materials and mining community.

<https://www.iom3.org/>

7. The Society for the Environment (SocEnv) is comprised of 24 Licenced Bodies, with over 500,000 members between them. It received a Royal Charter in 2004, which empowers it to regulate the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and Registered Environmental Technician (REnvTech) professional registrations globally. There are now over 7,000 environmental professionals currently registered who share a common vision of delivering sustainability through environmental professionalism.

www.socenv.org.uk