

Alok Sharma, MP for Reading West

14th August 2018

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for contacting me about the transfer of EU environmental law into UK law.

The Government has always been clear on the need to ensure that our environment is protected after we leave the EU. Our natural environment is precious and fragile and I believe that we must do everything we can to ensure that it is properly managed.

The EU (Withdrawal) Act converts all EU environmental law into UK law when we leave the Union next year. The manifesto on which I and all Conservative MPs were elected last year also promised that we should be the *'first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it in.'*

As you are aware, a consultation was launched on environmental principles and governance earlier this year and it proposed a new Environmental Principles and Governance Bill to ensure that environmental principles, such as the 'polluter pays' and the 'precautionary principle' are embedded into UK law. The Bill would also create a world-leading, independent environmental watchdog to hold the Government to account. I am pleased to read that you contributed to this consultation before it closed on 2nd August 2018. The Government is now analysing the feedback.

No decisions have yet been taken on the UK's future relationship with EU agencies including with the European Environment Agency. This is a matter for the negotiations.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Alok Sharma MP

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