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Our ref: MCB2024/21006
Your ref: JU81888

22 January 2025

Dear Julian,

Thank you for your email of 9 December 2024 to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs on behalf of a constituent, regarding the Climate and Nature (CAN) Bill. Your correspondence has been passed to this Department and I am responding as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio.

As the Prime Minister set out at COP29, and through the Government's ambitious clean energy superpower mission to achieve clean power by 2030 and accelerate to net zero – the Government is utterly committed to tackling the climate and nature crises. A core part of this includes our work with officials in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to better understand the challenges and opportunities in delivering sustainable solutions to our climate and biodiversity challenges.

The Climate Change Act 2008 and the Environment Act 2021 set legally binding targets for both climate and nature, respectively. Additionally, there is an ongoing review and revision of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP). This is a statutory plan that frames how the Government will improve the natural environment and enjoyment of it, with a revised EIP due to be published next year.

Furthermore, as the Prime Minister announced at COP29, the UK has pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 81% on 1990 levels by 2035, excluding international aviation and shipping emissions. The target forms the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution and is in line with the recommendations of the Climate Change Committee, and with the UK's share of limiting global warming to 1.5C.

The second reading of the CAN Bill is on 24 January and the Government will lay out the detail of its position then.

Yours ever,

KERRY MCCARTHY MP
Minister for Climate