

Natural Capital Committee

Professor Dieter Helm
Chair of the Natural Capital Committee
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20th September 2017

Dear Secretary of State

In response to your request for advice from the Natural Capital Committee on the 25 Year Environment Plan, please find this attached. Our advice builds on the NCC's previous recommendations, which are also attached as an annex.

The Plan is a great opportunity to reset policy, and to put us on a path towards the goal of leaving the natural environment in a better state for the next generation, first announced in the White Paper *The Natural Choice*, back in 2011. Too many big economic opportunities are being missed, and too many people are not getting the full benefits from our natural capital. This can and should be turned around by the Plan and its delivery.

The Plan needs to be credible, and for this it requires not only a clear vision of what the environment should look like in 25 years, but also clear milestones. The NCC considers that it is imperative that the Plan is put on a statutory basis, and that there is a clear line of authority. Someone has to be in charge, with clear measurement and accounting for performance, and answerable to Parliament. A White Paper at this stage would signal clear intent.

My colleagues and I are happy to provide detailed input on any of the issues raised here in the advice. We are working closely with the Defra team, and will continue to provide assistance and guidance not only in the final preparations of the Plan, but also in turning it into a practical reality.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Helm', written in a cursive style.

Dieter Helm,
Chair
Natural Capital Committee