



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

30 June 2023

Dear Zac,

Thank you for your letter. I accept your resignation.

You were asked to apologise for your comments about the Privileges Committee as we felt they were incompatible with your position as a Minister of the Crown. You have decided to take a different course.

I am grateful for your service as Minister for the Overseas Territories, Commonwealth, Energy, Climate and Environment. You have been a vocal advocate for some of the most important issues that the UK and the world face today.

Your time in office has been marked by historic UK successes at COP26 and COP27, as well as the Biodiversity COP in Montreal last year. I commend your leadership on forests, which secured endorsement from 145 countries of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use. You have also made a vital contribution to delivering our international climate finance and other programmes, including the development of the Blue Belt programme, the Biodiverse Landscapes Fund and the Global Forest Finance Pledge.

We can be proud of the UK's record as a world-leader on net zero. We are going far beyond other countries and delivering tangible progress whilst bringing down energy bills. This Government is also committed to leaving the environment in a better state than we found it, as set out in our Environmental Improvement Plan.

The UK continues to play an important role globally in tackling climate change and preserving the environment. I attended COP27 in Egypt in November last year and reconfirmed our £11.6 billion climate finance pledge. I also announced that we would triple our climate adaptation funding to £1.5 billion a year by 2025 and committed £90 million to the Congo Basin as part of £1.5 billion we are investing in protecting the world's forests. I co-hosted the first meeting of our Forests and Climate Leaders' partnership, which will deliver on the historic commitment by 145 countries at COP26 in Glasgow to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

Even in the last few weeks we have taken this international leadership into the recent G7 Leaders' Summit in Hiroshima and the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact in Paris last week, where the Minister of State for Development represented the UK.

I wish you all the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,
Rishi

The Right Honourable The Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park