Dear Dieter,

Protecting our environment through the 25 Year Environment Plan

It was very helpful to have your counsel last week on the 25 Year Environment Plan and on the role of natural capital and of the Natural Capital Committee; thank you for your time. I was interested to hear of the contribution that strategic management of our natural assets can make to economic growth; to health and life chances, particularly in the inner cities; and to the legacy we leave for future generations. I was also interested to hear that the 25 Year Environment Plan was originally a recommendation from your committee and I’m pleased to have inherited the duty to carry this work forward.

I have also been carefully considering the Committee’s annual report. I take the Report’s main conclusion to be that, as we leave the European Union, an overarching plan is vital to secure the greatest dividend for our environment. I agree with this. The Conservative Manifesto made a clear commitment to delivering the Plan, and I wish to take this forward swiftly to secure the benefits your Committee’s work has powerfully set out.

As we discussed, I would be grateful for the Committee’s advice on what the Plan should aim to achieve, focusing on those areas where improvements are most urgent and where the benefits are greatest; how it should seek to do so; and the necessary conditions for success. Mindful of the need to move quickly, I would be grateful if the Committee could provide its advice in September, to lay the ground for us to publish our Plan.

With every good wish,

Michael Gove