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The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
From the Secretary of State

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Professor Dieter Helm  
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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**