



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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**Private Office of Rebecca Pow MP**  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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The Principal Private Secretary to The Prince of  
Wales,  
Clarence House,  
London SW1A 1BA

23 December  
2019

## **ENVIRONMENT BILL: THE PRINCE OF WALES' CONSENT FOR MEASURES ON CONSERVATION COVENANTS**

I am writing on behalf of Rebecca Pow MP, the Parliamentary Undersecretary for the Environment to seek the consent of The Prince of Wales to measures within the Environment Bill. This Bill contains measures on Conservation Covenants which affect the interests of the Crown, the Duchy of Lancaster and the Duchy of Cornwall.

This letter provides a general overview of the purpose of the Bill and explains the intent of the particular areas where we consider that it requires the consent of The Prince of Wales. I also enclose the latest print of the Bill.

### **Overview of the Bill**

The Environment Bill is comprised of two thematic halves. The first provides a legal framework for environmental governance and accountability once the UK leaves the EU. The second half of this Bill makes provision for specific improvement of the environment including measures on: resource and waste efficiency; air; water; nature and biodiversity; and conservation covenants.

### **Measures requiring consent**

I would draw your attention to the following parts of the Bill which I believe require the Prince of Wales' consent.

Part 7 (conservation covenants) of the Bill applies to Crown land as it applies to any other land - see Schedule 18. There is no obligation to enter into a conservation covenant, but given that the Schedule deals expressly with the application of the provisions to different kinds of Crown land, we think this will require the consent of the Prince of Wales. There are express references to the Duchy of Cornwall in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Schedule, but all the provision in paragraph 3 does is identify the "appropriate authority" for the Duchy as for other categories of Crown land.

I should be grateful if you would submit this letter to His Royal Highness with the Minister's recommendation that at the appropriate stage in the proceedings in Parliament a Privy Counsellor may signify Prince's consent to the Environment Bill.

We are proposing to introduce the Bill early in January. I would therefore be grateful if you could respond by 6 January 2020. Should there be any changes to the Bill between now and its introduction, we will of course provide you with an updated Bill print for your consideration; at this stage we do not, however, anticipate that there will be any changes requiring Prince's consent.

Should you have any queries, the Bill Manager, Amira Amzour, and the Bill's lead lawyer, [Redacted] would be pleased to assist, and can be reached by telephone at [Redacted] and [Redacted] respectively, or by email at [Redacted] @defra.gov.uk.

I am writing in similar terms to the Private Secretary to The Queen and copying this letter to the Secretary to the Duchy of Cornwall, the Secretary to the Crown Estate Commissioners and Mr Julian Smith at Messrs Farrer & Co.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Private Secretary to Rebecca Pow MP  
Parliamentary Undersecretary of State for the Environment**



**CLARENCE HOUSE  
LONDON SW1A 1BA**

**Private and Confidential**

From: The Principal Private Secretary to TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall

10th October, 2019

*Dear Ms Pow,*

Thank you for your letter of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019, in which you set out the details of the Environment Bill.

I can confirm that The Prince of Wales is content with the Bill.

*yours sincerely,*  
[Redacted]

**Clive Alderton**

Ms Rebecca Pow MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

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Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
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Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

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The Principal Private Secretary to The Prince of  
Wales,  
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2 October  
2019

## **ENVIRONMENT BILL: THE PRINCE OF WALES' CONSENT FOR MEASURES ON CONSERVATION COVENANTS**

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kinds of Crown land, we think this will require the consent of the Prince of Wales. There are express references to the Duchy of Cornwall in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Schedule, but all the provision in paragraph 3 does is identify the “appropriate authority” for the Duchy as for other categories of Crown land.

I should be grateful if you would submit this letter to His Royal Highness with the Secretary of State’s recommendation that at the appropriate stage in the proceedings in Parliament a Privy Counsellor may signify Prince’s Consent to the Environment Bill.

We are proposing to introduce the Bill shortly after the Queen’s speech. I would therefore be grateful if you could respond by 12 October 2019.

Should you have any queries, the Bill Manager, Amira Amzour, and the Bill’s lead lawyer, [Redacted], would be pleased to assist, and can be reached by telephone at [Redacted] and [Redacted] respectively.

I am writing in similar terms to the Private Secretary to The Queen and copying this letter to the Secretary to the Duchy of Cornwall, the Secretary to the Crown Estate Commissioners and Mr Julian Smith at Messrs Farrer & Co.

**REBECCA POW MP**