



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Rebecca Pow MP
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Our ref: PO2022/23708/MP

12 April 2023

Dear Rupert,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November about the launch of a programme of activities designed to tackle cigarette litter and for your kind words of congratulation. I apologise for the considerable delay in responding.

I am delighted to have been appointed Minister for Environmental Quality and Resilience at Defra. It is a huge privilege to be the Minister responsible for protecting our environment from pollution, enhancing air and water quality, and improving our resilience to climate change. I look forward to championing this important work in the department.

I appreciate you bringing the launch of this voluntary initiative to my attention. As you will be aware, we have been working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme to explore options for tackling littering of cigarette butts, including making the industry financially responsible for the costs of dealing with such litter. We also sought evidence on the environmental impacts of discarded cigarette butts in our call for evidence on commonly littered and problematic plastic items. We are currently considering next steps.

In line with previous correspondence between the Government and the tobacco industry on this issue, and the World Health Organization's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, this letter will be made available on GOV.UK.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.

REBECCA POW MP