



# Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Steve Barclay MP  
Secretary of State Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

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Philip Duffy, Chief Executive  
Environment Agency  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

22 May 2024

Dear Philip,

## **Direction: clearance of illegally dumped waste at Hoads Wood, Kent**

Thank you for your letter of 21 May in response to mine of 13 May. We are in agreement regarding both the seriousness of this incident, and on the need for the waste to be cleared from the site. You state that you believe it is appropriate for me to issue you with a Direction to take this work forward.

To this end, I am writing to inform you that I am issuing a Direction under Section 40 of the Environment Act 1995 to require you to immediately put in train actions to clear the waste from Hoads Wood and to provide me with fortnightly updates on progress. This Direction will remain in place until the waste is cleared from the site.

I am happy to discuss this Direction further if this is helpful do so. I am copying this letter to Tamara Finkelstein - Defra Permanent Secretary, David Hill - Director General Environment, and Emma Bourne - Director Resources & Waste.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP**