



Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural  
Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

26<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Dear Ms Villiers,

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State. I am writing to you because Prospect represents a large part of the environmental workforce. From climate scientists at the Met Office, to specialists in APHA, the Environment Agency and Natural England, and staff in DEFRA itself, we are proud that our members work every day to make the UK a greener and more pleasant place to live. We are politically independent and do not affiliate to a political party.

However we have concerns about the direction of government policy on the environment and the way in which environmental protections and enforcement will be treated in the coming years.

As we commit to new long-term targets around the environment in the forthcoming Environment Bill, it is essential that we ensure that we have the people on the ground necessary to enforce those targets and help us achieve our ambitions as a nation. That means better funding for DEFRA and its agencies, and action on pay to help with recruitment and retention of a highly specialist workforce.

Leaving the EU will place a large strain on parts of the environmental workforce who either have to take on additional responsibilities or who deal directly with points of entry to the UK for animal or plant products. Our members who work in these areas are deeply concerned about the impact of the government's policy in this area and we are determined to make sure their voices are heard in the debate.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these issues with you in further detail and hope you are able to find time in your schedule to meet and hear the views of the environmental workforce.

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Of late we have experienced letters to Ministers going unanswered or not even being acknowledged. As a result we will be publicising this letter to members so they are aware we have approached you to pursue their interests in this regard.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Clancy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'y' at the end.

**Mike Clancy**

General Secretary