



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP
Secretary of State Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: +44 (0) 3459 335577
E: correspondence.section@defra.gov.uk
W: gov.uk/defra

Finlay Carson MSP
Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural
Environment Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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Dear Finlay,

Thank you for your letter of 9 November and your kind words of congratulations. I would like to apologise for the considerable delay in responding.

I am delighted that the Prime Minister has asked me to return to Defra, this time as Secretary of State. It is a pivotal time for our country. As the Prime Minister set out, protecting our environment is at heart of our manifesto.

Thank you for your invitation. In my position as Secretary of State for Defra I attend various Committees, as well as my regular attendance at the Interministerial Group for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (IMG EFRA), and given that a significant amount of Defra policy areas are devolved, in addition to understandable diary constraints, I must therefore politely decline on this occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Thérèse Coffey