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Department for Environment, Food and  
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Seacole Building  
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By e-mail only

30 July 2024

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of today's date concerning Defra's approach to responding to our report on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive Regulations and River Basin Management Planning in England.

The date for the Secretary of State to respond to the report is fixed by law. As you know, we attach great importance to adherence to statutory deadlines.

We recognise of course that, following the change of administration earlier this month, it will not have been possible for ministers to fully consider the report with the thoroughness and consideration it demands before the summer recess. We therefore understand that the response laid by the Secretary of State before Parliament yesterday is only intended to provide an initial response within that statutory deadline, with a commitment to lay a further, detailed response after recess.

We welcome this commitment to respond more fully in September. We trust this will allow ministers time to consider the issues and to respond in substance. We would like to see a detailed response that addresses all of our recommendations individually, as well as setting out the Government's position on the report and its findings as a whole.

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We look forward to reviewing that further response and will of course be pleased to discuss the content of the report and any intended follow-up actions as the response is produced.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Stacey', written in a cursive style.

Dame Glenys Stacey  
Chair, Office for Environmental Protection

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