

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

12th November 2018

Dear Constance,

RE: EUROPEAN UNION (WITHDRAWAL) ACT AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

Thank you for contacting me recently about the transfer of European Union (EU) environmental law into UK law; your comments upon which I read with great interest.

I have always been clear on the need to ensure that our environment is protected after we leave the EU. Our natural environment is precious and fragile and I believe that we must do everything we can to ensure that it is properly managed.

The *European Union (Withdrawal) Act* converts all EU environmental law into UK law when we leave the EU next year. The manifesto on which I and all Conservative MPs were elected last year also promised that we should be the “*first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it in.*”

A consultation was launched on environmental principles and governance earlier this year and it proposed a new *Environmental Principles and Governance Bill* to ensure that environmental principles, such as the ‘polluter pays’ and the ‘precautionary principle’ are embedded into UK law. The Bill would also create a world-leading, independent environmental watchdog to hold the Government to account. The consultation closed on the 2nd August 2018 and the Government is now analysing the feedback.

The Government did not believe that Lord Krebs’s amendment would have been sufficient to achieve its laudable aims and I did not support it for that reason. However, I did support another amendment which puts a legal obligation on the Government to publish an *Environmental Principles Bill* containing nine environmental principles within 6 months of the *EU (Withdrawal) Act* becoming law.

No decisions have yet been taken on the UK’s future relationship with EU agencies, including with the European Environment Agency. This is a matter for the negotiations.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE