



Matthew Pennycook MP,
Minister of State, Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham St,
London SW1P 4DF

25th June 2025

Dear Minister

Subject: **Planning and Infrastructure Bill implementation**

The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) is the professional body for over 8,500 ecologists and environmental managers in the UK. The majority of our members are employed in the private or public sector and are directly involved in working with housing developers to help them address the ecological impacts of their developments and build the houses we need.

We would like to request a meeting with you to discuss Part III of the Bill and how we can make this, and more generally the planning system, work to achieve the Government's housing and environmental ambitions.

The Planning and Infrastructure Bill is a unique opportunity to put in place a legislative framework to genuinely deliver win-wins for nature and housing development. As the Bill progresses into the House of Lords, we know that many peers share our concerns and are keen to improve the Bill to ensure that ecologists, environmental managers, housing developers and the government can all work collaboratively to ensure that the UK can benefit from both the houses and the natural environment that we all need.

The expertise of professional ecologists engaged in the development planning process can be critical to speedy, cost-effective, pragmatic and well-designed outcomes that genuinely benefit nature and developers. Consequently, we have 'real world' experience of the challenges that occur and workable solutions that we would like to share with you. We can offer guidance and support regarding how to ensure that the Bill's provisions can immediately work in practice to help you quickly reach your ambition of building 1.5 million new homes by 2029.

We are aware that your Department has regularly engaged and consulted with environmental NGOs, who do great work in advocating on behalf of nature recovery, and we support their invaluable work. But the unique perspective of the body representing the professional practitioners charged with delivering the relevant aspects of legislation and policy is crucial if the government is to meet its ambitious housing target before the end of this Parliament.

Please do let me know when you would be available for a short meeting to discuss how we can work together to achieve our shared objectives.

Your sincerely

Sally Hayns CEcol FCIEEM
Chief Executive Officer