

Rt Hon Steve Reed MP  
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
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United Kingdom

9 September 2025

**Subject: Congratulations**

Dear Secretary of State

I am writing on behalf of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) to congratulate you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Housing and Communities. We welcome your leadership at this pivotal moment for planning, development and nature recovery.

In moving from Defra, you bring with you a deep understanding of the natural world and its value – which you have highlighted on numerous occasions. This perspective offers a unique opportunity to shape a planning system that enables sustainable development whilst also reversing nature's decline.

We believe that the Planning and Infrastructure Bill is a critical moment to achieve that balance. As currently drafted, however, the Bill risks failing both developers (by creating greater uncertainty) and nature (by weakening the prospects for meaningful recovery). This is therefore an opportunity to reset the Bill so that it delivers certainty, speed and clarity for development while embedding solutions that genuinely support nature.

CIEEM welcomes new and innovative ideas, and we are open to exploring approaches that can both accelerate the delivery of much-needed housing and infrastructure and secure better outcomes for the natural environment. We have recently published a paper setting out practical solutions for reforming the planning system, which we would be delighted to share and discuss with you in more detail.

CIEEM is the leading professional body representing over 9,000 ecologists and environmental managers across the UK and Ireland. Our members work at the forefront of nature conservation, ecological research, and environmental management, bringing practical expertise and evidence-based insight to policy and practice. This unique

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perspective allows us to bridge the gap between development and nature recovery, helping to shape solutions that deliver benefits for people, the economy, and the natural world.

We would very much welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to explore how we might support your department in delivering this important agenda.

Yours sincerely,



Jason Reeves CEnv MCIEEM  
Head of Policy