

Rt Hon Angela Rayner
Secretary of State
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State,

On behalf of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM), congratulations on your reappointment as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. CIEEM looks forward to working constructively with you and your ministerial team as you set out your priorities.

CIEEM is the voice of over 10,000 ecologists and environmental managers working in housing, transport and energy across the UK. Our members work on the frontlines of infrastructure delivery in public and private sectors. They support house builders, developers and planning authorities to understand, assess, manage and improve the natural environment to enable much-needed development.

The right ecological expertise at the right time builds climate resilience into housing and infrastructure, improves design, and speeds delivery of places communities actually want to live alongside.

Ecological expertise also contributes to the delivery of multiple Government priorities:

Economic growth. Government has committed to fast-tracking 150 major infrastructure decisions this Parliament as part of delivering the highest sustained growth in the G7. Ecological input protects the investment behind each project and avoids the legal challenges and delays that come from incomplete ecological information.

Better living standards. The Government has committed to 1.5 million new homes in England delivered through "exemplary development", with homes that are "high-quality, well-designed, and sustainable" and "creating places that increase climate resilience and promote nature recovery." Early engagement with ecological expertise will deliver that commitment.

Clean energy. The government has a target to reach 95% clean power by 2030. Hitting it will require Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects to move through planning at unprecedented speed. With BNG coming into force for NSIPs in England in November of this year, ecological assessment will be crucial to this.

Climate adaptation. The CCC's advice to Government warns that without action, 92% of homes could overheat by 2050 and inaction on adaptation could cost £60–260bn a year. It's

cheaper and more effective to build climate resilience up front than retrofit, so ecologists will be crucial delivery partners for well-adapted housing developments of the future.

As you shape your priorities for this Parliament, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your officials to share the evidence base on where ecological input saves time and cost in the planning system, and to make the case that housing delivery and nature recovery are not in competition with one another.

Once again, congratulations on your appointment. We look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Hayns CEcol FCIEEM Chief Executive Officer