June 2020



Thank you for contacting me about the Environment, Agriculture and Fisheries Bills.

The decision to leave the European Union has created an historic opportunity to deliver a Green Brexit, where environmental standards are not only maintained but enhanced. I am pleased that the Environment Bill will ensure the environment is at the heart of all policy making and that this and future governments are held to account if they fail to uphold their environmental duties.

Long-term legally binding targets on biodiversity, air quality, water, and resource and waste efficiency will be established under the Bill and the Secretary of State will be required to give updates to Parliament on these.

Now we have left the European Union, this country has the chance to tailor its agriculture policy to move away from the EU’s bureaucratic Common Agricultural Policy and towards a fairer system where hard-working farmers are paid public money for public goods. I am pleased that Farmers and land managers had the opportunity to share their views on the Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme through the Government’s policy consultation. I look forward to seeing the outcome of this exercise.

In withdrawing from the EU, the UK will be leaving the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and be able negotiate access to waters and fishing opportunities as an independent coastal state. The Fisheries Bill will enable the UK to control who may fish in our waters, and on what terms, for the first time since 1973. This Bill will deliver on the Government’s commitment to sustainable fishing and conservation of the marine environment.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**