



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

T 03459 335577  
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Rt Hon Lord Justice Bean  
Public Chairman  
The Law Commission  
1st Floor, Tower  
52 Queen Anne's Gate  
London  
SW1H 9AG

22 November 2016

*Dear Sir David,*

**Wildlife Law – Final report and draft bill**

Thank you for your report and draft Bill. This is an important and complex area of law and my department is grateful for the expertise and insight the Law Commission brought to examining the opportunities for reforming wildlife law.

Exit from the EU provides an opportunity to re-examine our regulatory framework and how it works, so that it is fit for purpose to meet our national needs in future and fulfil our international obligations. It means we need to consider the implications of EU Exit for our approach to wildlife policy before deciding whether and how to implement your proposals, and whether some of your proposals would need amending in the light of EU Exit.

Pressure on parliamentary time also means it is likely to be very difficult to find time to bring forward legislative proposals for major reform in the near future. However, I am happy to support the principle of looking at wildlife legislation as a whole to provide a coherent system which achieves better outcomes. The Law Commission's work will be invaluable in informing Government's thinking.

The Government is committed to being the first generation to leave the natural environment of England in a better state than we found it. We also have a manifesto commitment to produce a 25 Year Environment plan which will be consulted on and inform our future approach to the environment. Protecting our precious environment will form an important part of our EU exit negotiations and we will work to deliver the best possible outcome for the British people.

Thank you again for the Commission's work on this important dossier. I look forward to working with you in the future.

*Yours sincerely,*

**DR THERESE COFFEY MP**