



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

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

Mr Michel Forst  
UN Special Rapporteur on environmental defenders under the Aarhus Convention,  
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Palais des Nations,  
8-14 avenue de la Paix CH - 1211  
Geneva 10,  
Switzerland

Your Reference: ACSR/C/2023/19 & ACSR/C/2024/26

**Date:** 18/06/2024

Dear Mr Forst,

Further to my previous letter of 14 May 2024, you will be aware that the United Kingdom Government has called for a General Election. I hope you will understand that restrictions around government activity during the pre-election period mean we will not be able to provide a substantive response at present to the correspondence referenced above.

We understand the importance of the matters raised in your letters. We will provide a response as soon as we are in a position to do so.

Yours sincerely

Richard Pullen  
Head of Environmental Governance Division  
Natural Environment, Trees and Landscapes (NETL)