



Department  
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Councillor Sharyn Wheale  
Chairman, Economy Transport & Environment  
Select Committee  
Hampshire County Council  
c/o The Scrutiny Team  
Elizabeth II Court South, The Castle  
Winchester  
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Your ref:  
Our ref: PO347596

3 June 2014

**From Dan Rogerson MP**

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Water, Forestry, Rural Affairs and Resource Management

Thank you for your letter of 8 May to the Secretary of State in which you enclosed a report from the Hampshire County Council Economy, Transport & Environment Select Committee on scrutiny of flood risk management. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

Within the Select Committee report you included a number of recommendations for Defra.

On recommendation 2, I agree it is important that environmental protection issues should not prevent dredging or other activities from taking place where these are needed to manage flood risk. This is not, in general, the case. Effective forward planning means that maintenance activities and their timing can be managed to support wildlife interests (for example by avoiding the bird nesting season and fish spawning) and achieve the required standard of river conveyance. The Environment Agency and Natural England stand ready to advise and support all those involved in watercourse maintenance activities in planning their activities and finding solutions to any challenges that arise.

On recommendations 4 and 5, the Government remains committed to implementing sustainable urban drainage systems at the earliest available opportunity, but not in a way that affects development. While several departments are working hard on this, it has become clear that we will not be in a position to implement Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 from October 2014, as we had hoped. A statement will be made in the summer which will set out in greater detail our plans for implementation. However, we would still expect that the secondary legislation setting out the implementation date would be laid in Parliament approximately six months before that date.



I hope this reply is helpful.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

*[Handwritten signature]*  
**DAN ROGERSON MP**

Councillor Sharyn Wisdale  
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Your ref:  
Outline P0347893

3 June 2014

From Dan Rogerson MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Water, Forestry, Rural Affairs and Resources Management

*[Handwritten signature]*

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Within the Select Committee report you included a number of recommendations for Defra.

On recommendation 2, I agree it is important that environmental protection issues should not prevent dredging or other activities from taking place where these are needed to manage flood risk. This is not, in general, the case. Effective forward planning means that maintenance activities and their timing can be managed to support wildlife interests (for example by avoiding the bird nesting season and fish spawning) and achieve the required standard of river conveyance. The Environment Agency and Natural England stand ready to advise and support all those involved in watercourse maintenance activities in planning their activities and finding solutions to any challenges that arise.

On recommendations 4 and 5 the Government remains committed to implementing sustainable urban drainage systems at the earliest available opportunity, but not in a way that affects development. While several departments are working hard on this it has become clear that we will not be in a position to implement Schedule 2 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 from October 2014 as we had hoped. A statement will be made in the summer which will set out in greater detail our plans for implementation. However, we would still expect that the secondary legislation setting out the implementation date would be laid in Parliament approximately six months before that date.

