Dear Mr Sekimizu,

Ballast Water Convention

The Environmental Audit Committee published a report in April on *invasive non-native species*, in which we criticised the UK Government’s approach to ratification of the Ballast Water Convention. The Government told us that it was not in a position to ratify the Convention because of “issues still outstanding, including a number of complications and uncertainties surrounding the sampling and analysis of ballast water that require attention”.

Your website indicates that 41 states have now ratified the Convention, exceeding the 30 needed to bring the Convention into force. We would be grateful if you could give us your assessment of (i) the issues surrounding sampling and analysis of ballast water, (ii) how many states have raised such issues and (iii) how many countries have indicated that such issues currently present a hurdle to them ratifying the Convention.

Sincerely,

Joan Walley MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee