From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP
Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London. SW1P 4DF

9 September 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

**Japanese knotweed and the built environment**

Thank you for your department’s response to my Committee’s Report on Japanese knotweed and the built environment.

The Committee has considered the Government’s Response and wishes to seek further information on a couple of matters:

- In response to our recommendation that Defra should add the physical effects of Japanese knotweed to its areas of research interest (ARI) document, the response noted that Defra’s ARI was “continually kept under review and will be updated in due course. We will consider including the impact of invasive species on a range of environments”. When will the department’s ARI next be updated?
- Defra accepted our recommendation to commission a study of international approaches to Japanese knotweed in the context of property sales. As offered in the response, we would like to accept your offer to receive a copy of this study when it is completed at the end of 2019.

I would be grateful for your response to this letter as soon as possible. I will be publishing this letter on my Committee’s website today.

Yours,

Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP
Chair