24 April 2019

Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Thérèse

Command Paper 87: Voluntary Partnership Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Indonesia on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade in Timber Products into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Thank you for your Explanatory Memorandum (EM) on the above Agreement, which the Sub-Committee considered at its meeting on 24 April.

The Committee supports the objective of the Agreement, to ensure all imports of timber products from Indonesia to the United Kingdom have been legally produced, but are aware of the continuing concerns around the extent of deforestation and illegal logging in Indonesia. To what extent do you consider Voluntary Partnership Agreements to be an effective way to reduce illegal logging and do you believe any additional measures are necessary to ensure timber imported to the UK has come from legal sources?

We were concerned to note that your EM recognised that there would be costs associated with administering this Agreement (“including the social and environmental safeguards reflected in impact monitoring, independent audits, monitoring, review and reporting”) but did not quantify these costs. Please could you provide us with the figures?

Finally, we note that there may be some delay with the implementation of this Agreement in the Bailiwicks of Guernsey and Jersey, and that you are continuing to engage with these territories are regards to their readiness to apply the Agreement. What are the issues delaying their ability to apply the Agreement?

We look forward to a reply to this letter within 10 working days.

Lord Teverson
Chair of the EU Energy and Environment Sub-Committee