



# Environmental Audit Committee

Committee Office House of Commons 14 Tothill Street London SW1H 9NB  
Tel: 020 7219 6150; Email: [eacom@parliament.uk](mailto:eacom@parliament.uk); Website: [www.parliament.uk/eacom](http://www.parliament.uk/eacom)

From the Chair

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

*Dear Philip*

23 May 2018

In its 25 Year Plan for the Environment, the Government says:

“To ensure strong governance, we will consult on plans to set up a world-leading environmental watchdog, an independent, statutory body, to hold Government to account for upholding environmental standards.”

The Prime Minister has said:

“Brexit will not mean a lowering of environmental standards.”

The Government's consultation was launched on 10 May. It has been widely reported that the Treasury opposed giving the environmental watchdog powers like the European Commission's to initiate enforcement action against Government. The evidence given to my Committee's joint hearing on Air Quality by the then-Exchequer Secretary for the Treasury indicated this was the case.

The Committee is currently conducting an inquiry into the Government's consultation. It would like to hear from yourself or another Treasury Minister to put the Department's views. It would like to hold that hearing as soon as possible after the Whitsun recess, before consideration of Lords amendments on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill.

The Committee intends to publish this letter and your response.

Yours sincerely,

*Mary Creagh*

**Mary Creagh MP**  
**Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee**