



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

T 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Professor Lord Krebs Kt FRS
Chair, Adaptation Sub-Committee
Committee on Climate Change
7 Holbein Place
London
SW1W 8NR

Our ref: MC398275/JAL

10 March 2016

From Rory Stewart OBE MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Environment and Rural Affairs

Dear Lord Krebs,

Thank you for your letter of 12 February to the Secretary of State about abstraction reform and climate change adaptation. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government shares the Committee's belief in the importance of abstraction reform, and we are committed to implementing the reformed system by the early 2020s. Our aim is to create a system that is modern, flexible and able to respond to pressures on the environment, farm and other business requirements, as well as the needs of our public water supply, given the effects of climate change and a growing population. We also recognise that how we make the transition to the reformed system is a key part of reform, and we will continue to discuss the details of this, and our published reform decision, with interested parties.

Concerning water resource management plans, I would refer you to our recent publication, "Enabling resilience in the water sector", which sets out a framework to support long-term resilience. It shows how we will use the resilience measures in the Water Act 2014 to address the balance between long and short-term outcomes in the next round of water companies' water resources management and business plans.

Thank you once again for your offer of advice and further support, on behalf of the Committee, as we work towards implementation of reform.

I enjoyed our conversation yesterday and look forward to many more chats.

RORY STEWART

BT with Roy