



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble**  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural  
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30 May 2019

Dear Lady Kramer,

### **Kew Gardens (Leases) (No.3) Bill**

Thank you for your contribution at the committee debate of the Kew Gardens (Leases) (No.3) Bill on 21 May. I was pleased to see so much interest as the Bill progresses through its Parliamentary stages.

I promised to write about the precise element of the car park at Kew which sits outside the wall of Kew Gardens after you enquired about the applicable protections. For the sake of completeness, I can confirm that the car park forms part of Kew's World Heritage Site and thus, the protections afforded to Kew are equally afforded to the car park. Any development on a World Heritage Site and its settings should conserve, promote, make sustainable use of and enhance its authenticity, integrity and significance and Outstanding Universal Value. In relation to the government's planning policies as covered under the National Planning Policy Framework, World Heritage Sites are recognised as of the highest significance.

I would also confirm that the car park provides RBG Kew with a good income stream, and there are no proposals to redevelop this site. There are plans to replace the visitor ticketing facility located here and improve the setting of the car park with additional screening and planting, in line with the WHS Management Plan, and subject to funding. These proposals will greatly improve the visitor experience and improve views from the river.

Any potential future proposals for development here would be subject to planning permission and would need to have great consideration of the heritage sensitivities of the location. In particular, the car park site is sensitive due to its location within the World Heritage Site, next to the river and within the setting of Kew Palace.

Further to a commitment that I made to the House to circulate the framework document that sets out the broad framework within which RBG Kew and Defra operate, please find a copy of the same enclosed.

If you would like to discuss this Bill further, I would be pleased to meet you. My office can be contacted at [ps.lord.gardiner@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ps.lord.gardiner@defra.gov.uk).

A copy of this letter has been sent to all Peers who spoke, and a copy, together with the enclosure mentioned, has been placed in the libraries of the House.

Your ever,  
John