



## Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

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**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**

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*MG* June 2022

I would like to make a correction to a remark I made during second reading of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill on 8 June 2022 which was recorded in Volume 715.

During my statement to the House (Volume 715, Column 822) I said: *"I will say three things as briefly as I can. First, **the national planning policy framework that will be published in July** will say significantly more about how we can drive improved environmental outcomes. Secondly, there is in the Bill a new streamlined approach to ensuring that all development is in accordance with the highest environmental standards. Thirdly, as the hon. Lady knows, under the 25-year environment plan and with the creation of the Office for Environmental Protection, the non-regression principle is embedded in everything that we do. The leadership that my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has shown, not least at COP26, in driving not just this country but the world towards net zero should reassure her on that front."*

I should have instead said that: *"I will say three things as briefly as I can. First, **a document setting out how we intend to change national planning policy will be published in July** will say significantly more about how we can drive improved environmental outcomes. Secondly, there is in the Bill a new streamlined approach to ensuring that all development is in accordance with the highest environmental standards. Thirdly, as the hon. Lady knows, under the 25-year environment plan and with the creation of the Office for Environmental Protection, the non-regression principle is embedded in everything that we do. The leadership that my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has shown, not least at COP26, in driving not just this country but the world towards net zero should reassure her on that front."* The document to be published will not be the National Planning Policy Framework itself.

I am copying this letter to Caroline Lucas MP. A copy of this letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

With every good wish,

**Rt Hon Michael Gove MP**

**Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities  
and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations**