



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Baroness Taylor of Stevenage**  
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Baroness McIntosh  
House of Lords  
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10<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear

*Anne*

In the Lords Considerations of Commons Amendments stage of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill on 24 November 2025, you asked about the timescale for implementing the new hazard classification for reservoir safety. I said I would write to you about this.

The UK and Welsh governments plan to launch a public consultation shortly on proposals to reform the reservoir safety regime, which will include proposals for a new hazard classification, and how low hazard reservoirs would be considered.

Following this consultation exercise, the reservoir safety reform proposals would need to be finalised. Depending on the approach taken, there may need to be further consultation. The legislation would then need to be drafted and passed by the UK Parliament, and the Senedd Cymru, respectively for England and Wales. The likely timeframe for secondary legislation being brought forward is 2027/8, though this does depend on the outcome of the consultation.

Since this is a major change to the whole safety regime, it is important that reservoir stakeholders are given the opportunity to digest the reform proposals and time to plan for their implementation.

I mentioned in my previous letter (30 October 2025) that various actions have already been taken to improve safety. The regulators will continue to make improvements to safety, through non-legislative measures in parallel with legislative reform - for example, through new guidance, training and sharing lessons from incidents and near misses.

Thank you for raising this important issue. Defra will let you know when the consultation is launched. Information about the consultation and events for stakeholders will also be put on the [Reservoir Safety Reform web page](#).

Yours ever,

**BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government

