



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Richard Burden MP
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Dear Richard,

Thank you for your letter of 20 December to the Secretary of State on behalf of a number of your constituents about the protection of bats. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

The Government recognises how important biodiversity is for a flourishing natural environment and the wellbeing of people and nature alike and we will publish a 25 year plan for the Environment that will set out our ambitions for plants and wildlife, as well as other environmental assets.

Bats play an important role as an indicator of the health of our natural world. It is encouraging that at least five of the monitored bat species in the UK have shown significant population increases in recent years and others are stable.

The UK continues to be a full member of the European Union and all the rights and obligations of EU membership remain in force. During this period the Government will continue to negotiate, implement and apply EU legislation, including the Habitats Directive. In the long term we will tailor our laws to the needs of our country and wildlife and develop our own innovative solutions to protect bats and other species that are consistent with our domestic priorities and international commitments.

Yours sincerely,

DR THERESE COFFEY MP