Dear Thérèse,

Air Quality

Thank you once again for your time earlier this year when we met in the Scottish Parliament. It was useful to discuss issues of mutual interest and I look forward to maintaining this constructive dialogue.

I am writing following our meeting to highlight the Committee’s upcoming inquiry on Air Quality and to seek further information on the potential impact on this policy area of the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union (EU).

Specifically, the Committee would welcome your views on:

- The UK Government’s response to ClientEarth’s view on its most recent Revised National Air Quality Plan;
- Plans for achieving UK compliance with EU air quality standards ahead of exiting the EU and how DEFRA is working with the Scottish Government to achieve this, including:
  - An update on progress towards the Clean Growth Plan to be produced by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;
  - An update on plans to publish a strategy on zero emission transport in March 2018; and
  - An update on progress towards the publication of a wider Clean Air Strategy in 2018.
- The opportunities posed by exiting the EU for the UK to exceed international air quality standards and how this can be achieved; and
- How a post-Brexit UK can work with the EU and other non-Member States on the issue of air quality across the whole of Europe.
The Committee would be delighted if you were able to comment on these points at its meeting on the morning of Tuesday 12 December. I appreciate coming to Edinburgh takes considerable time and also contributes to air quality issues. Could I therefore suggest speaking via video conference? We can be very flexible in terms of timing that morning to best fit your schedule.

If that date does not suit, the Committee would also welcome a written response from you on the points above. To best inform our work, we would appreciate this by 10 November 2017.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee