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Dear Colleagues,

### Publication of the Draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement

I am writing to inform you of the publication of the draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement for public consultation. The Statement, when finalised, will be a statutory document which Ministers of the Crown will need to 'have due regard' to when making policy. It will include an explanation of how the five principles should be interpreted and proportionately applied in policy-making:

- The **integration principle** is the principle which states that policy-makers should look for opportunities to embed environmental protection in other fields of policy that have impacts on the environment.
- The **prevention principle** means that government policy should aim to prevent, reduce or mitigate harm.
- The **rectification at source principle** means that if damage to the environment cannot be prevented it should be tackled at its origin.
- The **polluter pays principle** is the principle that those who cause pollution or damage to the environment should be responsible for mitigation or compensation.
- The **precautionary principle** states that where there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, a lack of scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

This consultation meets the commitments set out in the Environment Bill and seeks views on whether the draft policy statement provides sufficient information and process guidance to ensure its consistent application. This consultation found at the following link <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/environmental-principles/draft-policy-statement> will close on 2 June 2021 and the Government will publish a full response thereafter.

The Environment Bill sets a new and ambitious domestic framework for environmental governance. Due to exceptional pressure on the Parliamentary timetable as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Environment Bill will be carried over into the Second Parliamentary Session, but key work on implementing the Bill's measures continues at pace. This consultation is just one aspect of this work

If you would like to discuss the Environmental Principles Policy Statement further, please do contact my office at [ps.rebecca.pow@defra.gov.uk](mailto:ps.rebecca.pow@defra.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully,

REBECCA POW MP

