



Ros Kerslake
Chief Executive
Heritage Lottery Fund
7 Holbein Place
London, SW1W 8NR

20/12/17

Dear Ros

We are writing to express our concern over the recent Heritage Lottery Fund announcement regarding changes to your grant making.

Whilst we appreciate and understand the pressures and challenges HLF face from reduced National Lottery income, we are concerned that these changes will have a disproportionate impact on support for the natural heritage sector – an area which is already under-represented in HLF funding.

In particular we are concerned about the closure of 2 programmes which are oriented towards natural heritage – Parks for People and Landscape Partnerships. These changes come just as the DCMS Tailored Review of HLF has shown a very strong stakeholder approval for funding of natural heritage projects. Indeed, HLF's Landscape Partnership Programme is widely perceived as having been extremely successful and an excellent example of partnership working.

The closure of these programmes will inevitably lead to a greater number of natural heritage projects being applied for through the remaining programmes. We hope that this will not place these projects at a disadvantage.

We look forward to the opportunity to respond in detail to the consultation early in the New Year and to continue working together with HLF to ensure that the natural environment, which is so important to us all, is not left at a disadvantage.

Yours sincerely

Scottish Environment Link NI Environment Link Wildlife & Countryside Link Wales Environment Link

Environment Links UK

Environment Links UK collectively represents voluntary organisations with more than 8 million members across the UK. It comprises the combined memberships of Wildlife and Countryside Link, Scottish Environment LINK, Wales Environment Link and the Northern Ireland Environment Link. Each is a coalition of environmental voluntary organisations, united by common interest in the conservation and restoration of nature and the promotion of sustainable development across the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments.