

Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP,  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster  
Cabinet Office, 70 Whitehall,  
London, SW1A 2AS

6 June 2025

**The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

Dear Mr McFadden,

As you consider the future of public bodies, we are writing to emphasise that National Lottery Heritage Fund has an essential role to play in meeting the Government's Environment Act 2021 duty to halt the decline of nature by 2030.

No doubt as you have considered your Department's role in cross-government coordination of the Environmental Improvement Plan, you will have been made aware of the significant funding and delivery gap in efforts to meet the Government's nature commitments.

NLHF is one of the few organisations that can help to fill that gap in a cost-effective and socially progressive manner. The Fund has delivered over £2.2bn in funding for environmental projects (23% of its overall funding), restoring natural infrastructure that underpins economic resilience, and boosting green spaces in and around towns and cities with huge health and wellbeing benefits.

If the Fund were to be subsumed in another public body with a less clear focus on natural heritage, its ability to fulfil that role could be lost and the Government's ability to meet its Environment Act targets and net zero mission could be compromised. It is also important that the Fund takes a four-country approach, which few other bodies can deliver. We recommend that NLHF remains in its current form, continuing its vital role of investment in the UK's priceless and fragile natural heritage.

We would be glad to meet to discuss the Fund's future and your wider review of public bodies if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Hilary McGrady, Director General, The National Trust

Beccy Speight, CEO, RSPB

Juliet Vickery, CEO, BTO

Matt Larsen-Daw, CEO, The Mammal Society

Helen Browning, CEO, The Soil Association

Darren Moorcroft, CEO, The Woodland Trust

Craig Bennett, CEO, The Wildlife Trusts

Tanya Steele, CEO, WWF-UK

Kit Stoner, CEO, Bat Conservation Trust

Mark Lloyd, CEO, The Rivers Trust

Kathy Wormald, CEO, Froglife

Professor Jeremy Biggs, CEO, Freshwater Habitats Trust

Dr Tony Gent, CEO, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

Sandra King, CEO, Beaver Trust

Chris Butler-Stroud, CEO, WDC, Whale and Dolphin Conservation

Dr Stephen Head, Founder Patron, The Wildlife Gardening Forum

Sue Sayer MBE, Founder and Director, Seal Research Trust

Nigel Palmer, CEO, The Badger Trust

Jamie Cook, CEO, The Angling Trust

Julie Williams, CEO, Butterfly Conservation

Emma Slawinski, CEO, League Against Cruel Sports

Clare Brook, CEO, Blue Marine Foundation

Nicola Hutchinson, Deputy CEO, Plantlife

Kate Ashbrook, General Secretary, The Open Spaces Society

Kate Sheldon, CEO, Trees For Cities

Dr Rose O'Neill, CEO, Campaign for National Parks

Will Travers, Executive President and co-founder, Born Free

Paul Coulson, CEO, Institute of Fisheries Management

Gill Perkins, CEO, Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Andrew Whitehouse, Head of Operations, Buglife

Sally Haynes, CEO, CIEEM

Sandy Luk, CEO, Marine Conservation Society

Ross Maloney, CEO, The Ramblers

James Wallace, CEO, River Action

Fay Vass, CEO, The British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Nida Al-Fulaij, CEO, People's Trust for Endangered Species

Max Bryant, Director, Northern Ireland Environment Link

Karen Whitfield, Director, Wales Environment Link

Deborah Long, Director, Scottish Environment Link

Richard Benwell, CEO, Wildlife & Countryside Link