



Dr Neil Hudson MP

House of Commons
London
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Mary Creagh - Minister for Nature
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
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Dear Mary,

I do hope you are well.

I thank you for responding to my Written Parliamentary Questions concerning the blight of fly-tipping that has such a deeply detrimental effect on our communities and our climate. That said, I was struck by the lack of clarity on the new Labour Government's strategy to deal with this crime.

Since 2020, while the Conservative Government has reduced the number of fly-tipping incidents year on year, there have still been more than a million incidents being dealt with annually in the same period. This sadly therefore remains a critical issue for many communities, and I can only reinforce from personal experience that these incidents are an attack on communities, nature, and our precious environment.

This is especially concerning locally to me in Epping Forest where Operation Eagle, conducted by local police services, led to an arrest for large-scale, organised fly-tipping in Essex. Moreover, I know that for my constituents fly-tipping remains a worry, particularly in relation to the huge community asset that is the ancient woodland my constituency is named after.

As I'm sure you're aware, the first Litter Strategy for England was launched in 2017 under Theresa May's Government, and I have been proud to support the previous Government's action on this issue. Last year, I welcomed that on-the-spot fines were raised to £1,000, building on the £1.2 worth of grant funding to help more than 30 councils implement projects cracking down on fly-tipping. And subsequently, this year, I was delighted that 26 councils received a share of almost £1 million to protect communities from the scourge of fly-tipping.

Therefore, I urge you not to risk losing the progress we have made on this issue. Your Department, I believe, should undertake a formal assessment of its fly-tipping policies and lay out the specifics of your manifesto commitments on the issue with a formal strategy.

I thank you for considering the points I have made and while I understand deeply the broad and complex remit of DEFRA, we cannot as a nation afford to take any steps backwards on this troubling issue.

Yours sincerely,

Neil

Dr Neil Hudson MP
Member of Parliament for Epping Forest