

Agenda Item 8

SUGGESTED LETTER FOR MPs TO SEND TO LORD GARDINER RELATING TO PERMISSIVE ACCESS IN YOUR LOCALITY

Dear.....

It has been drawn to my attention by constituents that there is a developing denial of public access to certain land in the constituency. --+

The background is that until recently one of the benefits that the public had gained was that that there were successive agri-environment schemes such as Environmental Stewardship which sometimes included a requirement that some stakeholders were required to allow the public i.e. the taxpayer to have some form of permissive access to the land which was subject to the scheme. It was and is a matter of great concern to the constituent members of this Forum that these schemes were no longer to be supported partly because there was to be no EU matched funding. As a result there was public access to [*describe the land or lands and the type of permissive access*]

Now as a result of the referendum the EU funding or lack of it will become irrelevant. I am aware that the government will be reviewing the help being given to farmers and landowners. My purpose in writing to you is to invite you to agree to commit the Government to make every possible effort to ensure that in planning for the future of agricultural support it will ensure that any package will include a requirement that there should be reasonable public access to the land which will benefit from any new support package and particularly the land mentioned earlier in this letter.

You will, no doubt, be aware that there are many places where there is quite insufficient public access whether for walkers, horse riders or cyclists. Such a commitment would give those members of the public greater opportunity to enjoy the countryside whether by defined routes or by higher or more rights to roam. Successive governments have supported access to the countryside as a great benefit to the nation's physical and mental health.

If the government decides to give support to farmers and landowners it is only reasonable and proper that the public should also benefit and on behalf of my constituents I ask that you do so.

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