



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Department
for International
Development



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

The Rt Hon the Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park
Minister of State

Mr Stewart Wardrop
Chief Executive Officer
Arboricultural Association

Our ref: PO2020/19389/SH

stewart@trees.org.uk

14 August 2020

Dear Stewart,

Thank you for your joint letter of 22 July, with Mr John Parker, about the England Tree Strategy consultation.

As I am sure you will understand, the consultation has been designed to appeal to a wide audience, reflecting public concern over the environmental imperatives we all face under a changing climate. Within this context, the importance of trees, particularly in our urban and peri-urban environments, has deservedly gained widespread recognition.

It is essential that we listen to all stakeholders and it is certainly not our intention to miss any opportunity to build and capitalise upon the expertise of your membership or that of your partners from other sectors. We will be facilitating a number of England Tree Strategy workshops with our principle delivery partners, inviting expert contributions from senior representatives of respected organisations across the sector. I understand that this proactive engagement is nearing implementation and will include a session on trees and treescapes, which the Arboricultural Association and the Trees and Design Action Group have been invited to attend. We have had to limit the number of participants to run these workshops effectively online, but I hope the representatives taking part will be able to represent the tree sector. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is also developing a plan to engage with stakeholders to look at how the Manifesto commitment for new streets to be lined with trees can be met.

While the England Tree Strategy consultation document focuses on multiple choice questions, we have included an 'other' option for most questions to enable additional answers to be provided. We will also take written feedback from stakeholder groups by email at: tree.strategy.consultation@defra.gov.uk. However, to ensure these can be processed, responses should be as concise as possible and focus only on gaps that cannot be covered through the multiple choice and free text options within the consultation document.

Thank you for expressing both your support and concerns. I look forward to further discussions and your contribution to subsequent policy development.

Thank you once again for your letter.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Paul', written in a cursive style.

THE RT HON THE LORD GOLDSMITH OF RICHMOND PARK