



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Rt Hon. Damian Green MP
House of Commons
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Dear Damian

I am writing to let you know that I have issued a Ministerial Direction to the Environment Agency to instruct them to clear the waste illegally deposited in Hoads Wood.

You raised the issue with me directly when we met on 15 April, and I agreed with you on the importance of urgently cleaning up the waste. After that meeting, I wrote to the Environment Agency, setting out that I planned to direct them to take action and for them to outline options to proceed. They have now confirmed to me that they have identified appropriate legal powers and the funding to be able to do this.

The SSSI designation of the site, and the complex and fragmented landownership, mean that urgent action is needed to clear the waste and so I asked EA to start their legal process of engaging with landowners this week, for a full plan for clearance by the end of next week and for fortnightly reports thereafter to keep me and ministerial colleagues updated about progress.

I have enclosed a copy of the Direction for your information. This has been published on gov.uk and there will also be a notice in the London Gazette, both as required by statute.

I would like to pay tribute to your campaigning on behalf of your constituents to clean up this local beauty spot.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP