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Dame Meg Hillier MP
Chair of the Committee of Public Accounts
House of Commons
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28 November 2022

From Tamara Finkelstein CB
Permanent Secretary

Targeted interventions to deliver on environmental ambitions

Dear Chair,

I am writing in response to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) recommendations of February 2021, that Defra write to the Committee by September 2022 setting out work assessing the impact of targeted interventions such as the Green Recovery Challenge Fund on safeguarding green jobs.

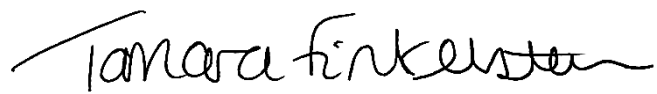
Green Recovery Challenge Fund – Round 1 evaluation

The first round of the £80 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund was launched in September 2020, to enable the environmental sector to create and safeguard green jobs at a time when it was facing considerable challenges.

Our original intention was that Round 1 projects would finish by March 2022. However, a range of pressures arising from COVID pandemic resulted in many Round 1 projects being unable to complete on time. Defra agreed to offer these projects up to three months' extension. This extra time enabled these projects to achieve their intended outputs, and so ensured better value for money.

As a result of this, publication of the independent evaluation of Round 1 of the Fund has been delayed until Spring 2023. We will write to you by end April 2023 to set out the findings of the report, including the Fund's impact on safeguarding green jobs.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tamara Finkelstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

TAMARA FINKELSTEIN
Permanent Secretary