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**From:** PS/Michael Gove

**Sent:** 15 September 2017 11:46

**To:** Southgate, Marie (DEFRA) <[Marie.Southgate@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Marie.Southgate@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>; Trundle, Shirley (DEFRA) <[Shirley.Trundle@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Shirley.Trundle@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: Letter to SoS

Hi both,

We have received the following from the Moorland Association following SoS's meeting with them yesterday. I'm fairly relaxed about putting all this into SoS's weekend box but let me know if you would like any advice to accompany it. If you'd like to comment but can't pull something together today I can put in and note that further advice from officials will follow or can hold off altogether.

Let me know what works for you.

Best,

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**From:** Amanda Anderson [<mailto:amanda@moorlandassociation.org>]

**Sent:** 15 September 2017 10:33

**To:** PS/Michael Gove <[Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>; Robert Benson <[rbenson@moorlandassociation.org](mailto:rbenson@moorlandassociation.org)>; Rowe, Mike (DEFRA) <[Mike.Rowe@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Mike.Rowe@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

**Subject:** RE: Letter to SoS

Dear Secretary of State,

It was a pleasure to meet you yesterday and we are very grateful for your time and interest in all things 'Bog'!

As promised, I attach the guidance now developed for land managers and NE advisers putting everyone on the same page for peatland restoration. If this approach is followed it will remove

the need for prescribed 'rotational' burning as a vegetation management technique and replace it with a much more holistic restoration process for all outcomes: water quality, carbon storage, biodiversity, whilst providing for grazing and a healthy grouse population.

Through addressing the water table depth (which should be high) through blocking drainage ditches and covering up bare peat, (24,000 Ha have been repaired on grouse moors in England already) structure and function will have a chance of returning to degraded bogs. Vegetation management through a variety of tools is the fine tuning to then improve the bog to its best possible condition over time. The Guidance covers all this.

Land managers accepting the Guidance and the outcomes approach embedded in it is a big prize and I am sure it can be used to demonstrate to Europe that this sea-change is underway voluntarily and there is no need to regulate to improve the structure and function of blanket bog.

If Robert and I can help formalise an initial agreement of SAC rotational burning consent holders to follow this approach of restoration (with 25 year management plans to follow) we would be only too happy to help. Please let us know what you would like us to do. As we explained we are engaging with our members, their agents and their keepers at various levels and in different ways so this new approach is not 'news' to the majority of our members.

With best regards,

Amanda

PS If the files are too big to come through to you I can resend individually.

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**From:** PS/Michael Gove [<mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 13 September 2017 08:09

**To:** Robert Benson <[rbenson@moorlandassociation.org](mailto:rbenson@moorlandassociation.org)>; Amanda Anderson <[amanda@moorlandassociation.org](mailto:amanda@moorlandassociation.org)>

**Cc:** [@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

**Subject:** RE: Letter to SoS

Apologies, Mr Benson,

I have the email to you lodged in my outgoing messages for some reason.

I can confirm the meeting at 17:15 on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Apologies for the delay in this confirmation.

Kind regards,

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**From:** Robert Benson [<mailto:rbenson@moorlandassociation.org>]  
**Sent:** 12 September 2017 18:40  
**To:** PS/Michael Gove <[Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>; Amanda Anderson <[amanda@moorlandassociation.org](mailto:amanda@moorlandassociation.org)>  
**Cc:** Mead, David (DEFRA) <[David.Mead@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:David.Mead@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to SoS

As discussed, can you please confirm new mtg at 5.15 on Thursday at Noble House before we book more train tickets. Many thanks  
Robert

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** PS/Michael Gove <[Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Date:** 12/09/2017 12:20 (GMT+00:00)  
**To:** Robert Benson <[rbenson@moorlandassociation.org](mailto:rbenson@moorlandassociation.org)>, Amanda Anderson <[amanda@moorlandassociation.org](mailto:amanda@moorlandassociation.org)>  
**Cc:** [@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to SoS

Good afternoon, Mr Benson,

Regrettably, we have had a change of business tomorrow and I will have to ask that we move the meeting that you currently have planned in with the Secretary of State.

In the efforts to protect this from moving to the end of October, I was wondering if it might be possible for you to attend a meeting at 11:30 here at the Department?

Kind regards,

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**From:** Robert Benson [<mailto:rbenson@moorlandassociation.org>]  
**Sent:** 31 July 2017 09:29  
**To:** PS/Michael Gove <[Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk)>; Amanda Anderson <[amanda@moorlandassociation.org](mailto:amanda@moorlandassociation.org)>  
**Cc:** [@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:@defra.gsi.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to SoS

Dear ,

Thank you very much for this invitation – Wed 13<sup>th</sup> September would suit Amanda and I perfectly. I'm afraid this is the only one that is possible of the dates mentioned.

I look forward to confirmation.

Kind regards

Robert

Robert Benson  
Chairman - Moorland Association

[www.moorlandassociation.org](http://www.moorlandassociation.org)

Moorland Association



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**From:** PS/Michael Gove [<mailto:Secretary.State@defra.gsi.gov.uk>]  
**Sent:** 27 July 2017 13:49  
**To:** Robert Benson <[rbenson@moorlandassociation.org](mailto:rbenson@moorlandassociation.org)>; Amanda Anderson <[amanda@moorlandassociation.org](mailto:amanda@moorlandassociation.org)>  
**Cc:** [@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:@defra.gsi.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Letter to SoS

Good afternoon,

The Secretary of State for Defra, Mr Michael Gove received a letter from yourselves at the start of the month, requesting a meeting to discuss a number of issues laid out in it. I am pleased to say that Secretary of State is keen to meet with you both and has asked me to get in touch with the aims of setting this up.

As such, would the following dates and times be a possibility;

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September – 14:30 or 15:00

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September – 11:30

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September – any time from 13:30

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Kind regards,

**Diary Secretary to the Secretary of State**

Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs | Room 607 | Nobel House | 17 Smith Square |  
London SW1P 3JR  
Tel; 02082258859

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)**

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