



Department
of Health &
Social Care

*From the Lord Bethell
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Innovation*

*39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU*

020 7210 4850

PO-1251843

Bob Ward
Policy and Communications Director
Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment
By email to: r.e.ward@lse.ac.uk

1 December 2020

Dear Mr Ward,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 August to the Prime Minister about a National Heat Risk Strategy.

Unfortunately, I am currently unable to reply personally, and I apologise for this.

In order to prevent further delay, I have asked an official to reply on my behalf and this is enclosed.

Should you require a personal reply from me, please do not hesitate to write again.

I hope the enclosed reply is helpful.

Kind regards,

LORD BETHELL



Department
of Health &
Social Care

From Marie Turner
Head of Ministerial Correspondence and Public Enquiries

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London
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Bob Ward
Policy and Communications Director
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1 December 2020

Dear Mr Ward,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 August about a National Heat Risk Strategy. I have been asked to reply and I apologise for the delay in doing so, which has been caused by an unprecedented volume of correspondence in recent months.

On behalf of the Department, I would like to thank you for your suggestion to create a National Heat Risk Strategy to manage the risks posed by hot weather. Departmental officials have passed your letter to the Public Health Systems and Strategy team for their information.

As you are aware, on 18 August, the Government announced a brand new organisation to provide a new approach to public health protection and resilience.

The National Institute for Health Protection (NIHP) will bring together the expertise of PHE with the response capabilities of NHS Test and Trace and the Joint Biosecurity Centre. This will put the UK in the best possible position for the next stage of the fight against COVID-19 and will enable the country to be ready to respond to other health threats, now and in the future.

The primary focus of the NIHP will be to ensure we have the best capability to control infectious disease and deal with pandemics or health protection crises. It will take on existing UK-wide responsibilities and will work with local government, the NHS and the devolved administrations, building on the existing strong working relationships between the four nations of the UK, including on data sharing, alert levels and border issues.

The Government is in the process of designing the NIHP and the roles and responsibilities that will sit under it. The new organisation will have wide-reaching considerations with respect to health protection.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Kind regards,

MARIE TURNER