

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AB

26<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

**Report: the case for a new 'Mission' for Sustainable Wellbeing**

Congratulations on your work over the last few weeks to begin establishing the new Government.

Today (26<sup>th</sup> July), the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) published a policy report: [Environmental scientists: "Use the next 5 years to... Transform the UK with a new Mission for Sustainable Wellbeing"](#). A copy of the report is attached.

As the global professional membership body for over 6000 environmental scientists, the IES unites science and people around a shared goal: to work with speed, vision and expertise to solve the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

The report sets out recommendations, including the creation of a new government 'Mission' for Sustainable Wellbeing to build a country with **thriving people, a healthy economy, and a flourishing environment**. We have written to Ministers to highlight specific recommendations from the report. However, as it calls for cross-governmental action, we thought it important to write to you directly to set out the case for a new Mission focused on sustainable wellbeing.

While the Government's five missions are well-established, we believe it will be more difficult to achieve them – and the Government's wider ambitions to change the country – without a sixth on sustainable wellbeing. The environment provides the resources that underpin economic security and public health, so a sustainable approach is crucial to creating a country which is fair and prosperous, now and in the future.

Nature does not recognise the artificial jurisdictions we place around government departments, so environmental challenges often have consequences across government. Existing cross-departmental approaches to policy making have not successfully delivered action to restore nature and address the climate crisis, so a more unified approach across government would help to drive change.

Put simply, 'the buck' must stop somewhere. A cross-departmental institution with a clear mandate from the Government will be an essential part of embedding sustainability across government decisions, without leaving any people behind or compromising on economic security.

Sustainability is not an abstract ideal of environmentalism: it means what it says. If we want to continue to succeed in the future, we need to ensure that the success we pursue can be sustained for future generations. It is an absolute prerequisite to economic security, because we cannot sustain livelihoods for future generations if they are built on unsustainable grounds.



The institution of  
environmental sciences

Realising that goal in practice means accepting sustainable wellbeing as a purpose that underpins good public service. The pillars of sustainable wellbeing identified in the report underpin what the IES believes would make the UK a great place to live. They measure our success at creating a sustainable society where everyone has what they need: thriving people, a healthy economy, and a flourishing environment.

If you would like to discuss the core recommendation of a new Mission for Sustainable Wellbeing or the wider implications of the report for the Government and its ambition to address the climate and nature crises, we would happily meet with you, a colleague, or an advisor.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JL' or 'Joe Lewis'.

Joseph Lewis  
Policy Lead, Institution of Environmental Sciences