

Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

3rd July 2023

CIEH Environmental Health Manifesto

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to you to ask if you will pledge your support to our recently published Environmental Health Manifesto.

As you know, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is a charity and the professional membership body for Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs), representing over 7,000 members across the UK working in both the public and private sectors.

Our members played a vital role throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, from supporting contact tracing efforts, to business closure enforcement during the various stages of lockdown. Following the gradual reopening of businesses EHPs were at the forefront of inspecting establishments to ensure that they were COVID-secure and complying with government guidelines.

We have recently refreshed our Environmental Health Manifesto which has been circulated to a select number of MPs and Peers. Our key asks within our Manifesto include ensuring the UK maintains our exceptionally high food standards, environmental protection standards as well as calling for tougher action to be taken on water companies polluting our rivers and coastal areas with untreated sewage.

CIEH recognise that we now have a unique opportunity to review our regulatory regime to ensure that it is fit for purpose and tailored to the needs of our country. However, we remain concerned with what we perceive to be this Government's deregulatory direction of travel. Not only is this evidenced via the Retained EU Law Bill, which threatened to sunset thousands of items of regulation vital to protecting public health, but so too in the recently published 'Smarter Regulation to Grow the Economy' proposals. We would urge the Government to abandon its current 'health vs wealth' dichotomy, as you will no doubt be aware, a healthy population is vital to a thriving economy.

We wish to work closely with you to stress the importance of maintaining and enhancing our regulatory framework so that we may continue to enjoy the excellent levels of environmental and public health we have here in the United Kingdom. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our Environmental Health Manifesto with you more fully, as well as discuss how the CIEH and our members can support the government with your efforts to ensure the UK remains a regulatory world leader.

Thank you very much for your time and we look forward to working constructively with you going forward.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Phil James

Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health