

The Prime Minister the Right Honourable Mr David Cameron
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister,

Three years ago, your Government had the vision to set up the Independent Panel to report on the future of our woods and forests. Its recommendations included a Public Forest Estate held in trust for the nation as a politically-independent public body, overseen by a group of guardians.

Since then, community organisations such as Friends of Thetford Forest have been involved in all the National Stakeholder Forums and in the detailed negotiations with the Forestry Commission's Senior Management and DEFRA. This is truly a revolutionary approach and evidence of 'democracy in action' as we, as 'ordinary people', have had direct access to the policy-makers.

At the Forum Meeting on 29 January 2014, we were given the ten principles on which the new Public Forest Estate Management Organisation is to be founded, with reassurances that funding, linked to an eco-systems services payments scheme, will be put into place.

On this basis, Friends of Thetford Forest believes that legislation encompassing all of these principles should be brought before Parliament at the earliest opportunity. We hope that you will be able to bring forward the draft legislation so that it can be included in the Queen's Speech.

Such a move would be a lasting green legacy for you personally and for your Government. It would have the support of the many thousands of people across the country who value our woods and forests for timber production, wildlife and

recreation and as a unique asset for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Mason

Chair, Friends of Thetford Forest.