

Lords Consideration of Commons Amendments on the EU (Withdrawal) Bill (EUWB), 18 June 2018

Motion B1: amendments 3C – 3K

Greener UK welcomes amendments 3A and 3B proposed by the Commons in lieu of Lords amendment 3. This is a step in the right direction but amendments 3A and 3B omit several key points, which are addressed in [amendments 3C to 3K tabled by Lords Krebs](#). Greener UK supports amendments 3C to 3K as they would ensure that:

- the new green watchdog is independent to better reflect the intent of the [Defra consultation on Environmental Principles and Governance](#) (3G)
- arm's-length bodies, such as Natural England and the Environment Agency, are covered by environmental principles, as well as Ministers, as they are currently (3D and 3DA)
- arm's-length bodies and Ministers have to 'act in accordance with', rather than the weaker 'have regard to' the policy statement on the principles. This would also ensure consistency with how government has referred to such duties in relation to other national policy statements (see S104 of the Planning Act 2008, particularly subsections 3, 4, 5 and 6 and S47(2) of SI 2011/2055) (3E and 3F)
- the new green watchdog would take 'proportionate and appropriate' action, [as proposed by the Solicitor General](#) in last week's Commons EUWB debate (3H)
- the environmental principles listed in amendment 3A are regarded as a minimum, to cover the possibility that over time, or as a result of responses to the Defra consultation, new principles could be established in the future (3J)
- the Secretary of State is required to take steps to ensure that the UK's exit from the EU does not lead to any weakening or loss of environmental rights and protections (3K)

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