

Thursday 10 May 2018

Shaun Spiers, chair of Greener UK and executive director of Green Alliance, said:

“The government set high expectations with promises of a world leading environmental watchdog and enhanced environmental standards. Yet the consultation released today proposes to give the environment and countryside less protection after Brexit than exists now.

“There is no commitment to give the proposed new watchdog power to initiate legal action, nor is there any commitment to enshrine vital environmental principles, such as the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle, in law.

“This is hugely disappointing and suggests that some ministers do not want to be held to account on laws that protect our beaches, habitats and air quality.

“Since the general election the government has set out bold plans for the environment and made great progress on issues such as plastic pollution and protecting pollinators. There is much to welcome in this consultation, not least the commitment to an environment act and the promise that the new watchdog will be independent and adequately funded. But it fails the fundamental test of ensuring that environmental protection is not weakened after we leave the EU.

“It is not too late for government to deliver on its commitments, but with less than a year to go until we leave the EU, time is running out.”

ABOUT GREENER UK

[Greener UK](#) is a group of 13 major environmental organisations, with a combined public membership of 7.9 million. They are united in the belief that leaving the EU is a pivotal moment to restore and enhance the UK’s environment. The coalition members include WWF, National Trust, RSPB, Friends of the Earth, Green Alliance and The Wildlife Trusts.