

29<sup>th</sup> June 2015

George Eustice MP,  
Minister of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)  
Defra, Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SE1P 3JR

Dear Mr Eustice,

On behalf of the Association of IFCAs and all the individual IFCAs, may we take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to Minister of State. In addition, we would like to pass on our congratulations for your impressive increase in majority in the general election as MP for Camborne and Redruth.

May we extend a standing invitation to attend the quarterly Association Members meetings as we feel that your attendance in the past has been both productive and informative? In addition, we would both be very happy to meet at your convenience if there are any issues you would like to discuss going forward. The ten English IFCAs have also asked the Association to extend an invitation for you to visit, including the opportunity for you to go out on our inshore fleet of research and enforcement vessels.

The IFCAs and the Association continue to work closely with Defra, our funding Authorities and our delivery partners to deliver UK marine policy and are currently actively working with the MMO to see if there are better and more efficient ways of delivering marine management and enforcement. The IFCAs have a strong local marine presence with an inshore fleet of over 30 craft. We believe we have also demonstrated excellent value for money and a reputation for being “can do” organisations. This has been well illustrated in our continued delivery of the well managed network of Marine Protected Areas by the end of 2016. We are also working closely with Defra to locally support national and European policy on bass, the landing obligations under the revised CFP, and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive to name but a few initiatives.

We all recognize the financial constraints and challenges and are keen to continue to engage with you and Defra as well as our delivery partners and funding Authorities to ensure that we can continue to demonstrate cost effective solutions. The Association and the IFCAs are always open and constructive when seeking to find better ways to deliver UK policy.

The Association would very much like to engage at the earliest appropriate time to ensure that we maintain sustainable funding beyond April 2016 where it is currently unclear as to funding arrangements. The Association Members are anxious to secure future funding arrangements as soon as possible so we can continue to deliver UK priorities and plan for the future.

We both very much look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lamb". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Councilor John Lamb  
Chairman of the Association of IFCAs

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Bolt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a horizontal line under the name.

Dr Stephen Bolt  
CEO Association of IFCAs  
07834 381721

cc. Rob Matthews, Defra