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Our ref: 380609

11<sup>th</sup> August 2015

**From George Eustice MP**  
**Minister of State for Farming, Food and Marine Environment**

*Dear John*

Thank you for your letter of 29 June and for your kind words on my appointment and the election result. I am sorry for the delay in responding.

On the subject of IFCA funding you will recall that last month the Chancellor launched a full spending review to be carried out over the summer. The results of that review will be published on 25 November, but until we have clarity about the extent and range of our resources I am not in a position to make commitments beyond 2016. However, when I attended your meetings in March I pledged additional financial support to IFCAs in the current year as a one-off supplementary grant to help deliver marine environment management plans. I am pleased to confirm that payments will be made shortly.

Moving forward it is important that the IFCAs continue to work closely together and, with other agencies, share resources and jointly manage the inshore area as effectively and efficiently as possible. I understand you have been collaborating with the Marine Management Organisation on joint working arrangements and I will be interested in how this will be progressed.

All of the IFCAs have worked determinedly to implement well managed marine protected areas by 2016. I am very grateful for the work that has taken place to this point.

I regret that current pressures on my diary mean I will not be able to attend a quarterly meeting at this time. However on the subject of a visit I would like to take up the kind offer from Kent and Essex IFCA for an opportunity to see some of the successful work on Folkestone Pomerania MCZ. Defra officials will be working with Chief Officer Will Wright to find a mutually convenient date and I hope I might see you then.

*George Eustice*

**GEORGE EUSTICE MP**

