

Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and
Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
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18 June 2018

Our Ref: ZA9708

Dear James

I write further to correspondence between myself and your predecessor, The Rt Hon Sajid Javid regarding his decision to refuse planning permission to H J Banks and Company Ltd and their planned opencast mine for mineral extraction and auger mining scheme. During my correspondence over the last couple of years, I have frequently raised the issue of how opencast mining of the sort proposed by H J Banks was incompatible with recent developments in Government policy.

It on this matter that I wish to raise my concerns about the current planning regulations with regard to this type of development. The Paris Agreement and the launch of the 'Powering Past Coal Alliance', and with respect to the comments made by Claire Perry on 16th November 2017 in Bonn, who was then the Minister responsible for Climate Change, that "the time for coal has passed", has clearly altered how Government deals with applications of this type. I would like to discuss with you the possibility of amending planning regulations as such facilities can surely no longer be allowed to commence operation, as we part of the global leadership that is at the heart of the 'Powering Past Coal Alliance'. I believe it is incompatible with Government policy, our stated position as part of the Alliance, and as a global leader to be considering new applications for opencast coal mining.

With these objections in mind, I would be grateful to discuss this issue with you so that we can continue our role as an international leader in Climate Change and caring for our future environment.

*Yours Sincerely
Anne Marie*

Member of Parliament for Berwick-upon-Tweed

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*I send a regular e-newsletter to keep residents informed of the work I do in Parliament and locally.
To receive it email "subscribe" to team.trevelyan@gmail.com.*