

Victoria Prentis MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

8th July 2021

Dear Ms. Prentis,

Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (D&SIFCA)

Thank you for your letter of the 25th June 2021. I apologise for extending our correspondence but there are certain aspects within your letter about which I and our Chief Officer, Mr. Mat Mander, are unclear. In order for us to effectively engage with Ms. Rachel Muckle and her marine team, we feel it is necessary for us to clarify these aspects.

Based upon your letters of the 19th May and 25th June our current understanding is that:

1. Ms. Muckle and colleagues are engaged in discussions with colleagues at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
2. These discussions are intended to explore bespoke assistance options.
3. Ms. Muckle and colleagues will at some point engage in discussions with Devon & Severn IFCA's funding local authorities but that these discussions have yet to take place.

I should be grateful if you could respond further if our understandings as set out above are incorrect.

We are very encouraged to read that Defra officials have been working hard to develop bespoke assistance in recognition of the unique funding situation that D&S IFCA faces.

I also note that in your letter of the 19th May 2021 that you suggest that Ms. Muckle and her Marine and Fisheries team meets with us to discuss the funding issues besetting Devon & Severn IFCA and to explore the options available.

However, to-date, neither I nor Mr. Mander have received any contact from Ms. Muckle and her Marine and Fisheries team. Mr Mander and I believe that it would be advantageous if Ms. Muckle and / or members of her Marine and Fisheries team met with us as soon as possible and certainly prior to any discussions about these issues and bespoke funding options with Devon & Severn IFCA's funding local authorities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Williams' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. Michael. V. Williams

Chair

Devon & Severn IFCA

Cc Ms. Rachel Muckle (Defra), Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP, Luke Pollard MP, Neil Parish MP