

26 October 2010



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Dear

As you know, Defra last week received its funding settlement as part of the Spending Review 2010 announcements. After a period of waiting, we're pleased to now be able to plan with greater certainty. Natural England's funding allocation over the four years covered by the Spending Review has not yet been determined but, as you may be aware, we have plans in place for a cut of 30%. We want to do this in a way that will enable our people to work more closely with local communities and engage civil society, recognising that investment in the natural environment can be made to go further if we successfully collaborate with fellow Defra delivery bodies and other partners.

Our detailed plans for the future will be included in our revised Corporate Plan, which we'll develop with Defra over the next few months. We'll send you a link to this for your views as soon as we have a draft ready for consultation.

In order to deliver the changes required we are revisiting our organisational design and planning to reduce the number of Natural England staff by up to a third, with the first 400 (15%) leaving early in 2011/12. As a first step in this, we announced to staff last week the departure of two of our six Executive Directors (Tom Tew and Robin Tucker). Our new, smaller Executive Board will now lead the transition to our new organisational design.

Another result of these changes is that Natural England will no longer have Regional Directors among its Executive team and I will be moving to a national role. The detailed management arrangements are still in development but will take effect in April 2011.

We will write to you to confirm your named senior contact in due course, but in the meantime please continue to contact me or your account manager with any queries. As we move towards the new organisational arrangements may I thank you for your cooperation and support in my brief time as Regional Director and reassure you that we are committed to ensuring that our new structure will be fully aligned to the needs of our customers and partners locally.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ciaran Gannon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ciaran Gannon  
Regional Director