

Philip Aylett
Second Clerk
Environmental Audit Committee
House of Commons
14 Tothill Street
London SW1

David Levy
Chair, Marinet
27 Chipperfield Drive
Kingswood
Bristol BS15 4DP

24th April 2014.

Dear Mr. Aylett, Questions to the Minister: MCZ Coherent Network and Co-location Sites.

Thank you for your reply of April 22nd 2014, attached. It is another cause for concern.

At best, you offer me a great deal of hard work by requesting me to prepare a background paper that should have been within the Environmental Audit Committee's remit anyway; then, you conclude this with "I hope this will be possible" so that our submission / supplementary questions of 5th April are accepted.

I will elaborate, by means of an additional paragraph, to each of the questions which we have suggested that the Committee/Parliament needs to ask the Minister. However I do wish you to understand that the questions we are asking you to submit in written form to the Minister *should* have been asked by the Committee *itself* when it interviewed the Minister. In short, we are writing because we are concerned that the Committee has fallen short, during its interview of the Minister, in its duty and competence.

When I mentioned co-location to several members of the Committee after the evidence session I was met with a blank stare and lack of comprehension. So it is my assumption that the Committee was inadequately briefed for the task of interviewing the Defra Minister. This triggered my original letter of 5th April to the Committee as additional questions need asking. Accordingly, I have amended my original letter and wish for this to be circulated to the Committee's MPs along with this letter of explanation.

Just to make it abundantly clear, I am saying that the Environmental Audit Committee was ill prepared for this evidence session, and failed in its task of auditing the Ministry on the issue of MCZ site allocations. As this is a public issue of concern, then the Environmental Audit Committee should be up to its task is essential.

Please can you forward this to all Committee members for a collective response. I am copying in my MP, The Marine Conservation Society, and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall of FishFight as I am sure that they too will be interested in your response.

Yours sincerely

David Levy
Chair, Marinet Marine Community Network.