

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer

3rd July 2023

CIEH Environmental Health Manifesto

Dear Rt Hon Starmer,

I am writing to you in your capacity as Leader of the Opposition to ask if you will pledge your support to our recently published Environmental Health Manifesto.

As you know, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) is a charity and the professional membership body for Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs), representing over 7,000 members across the UK working in both the public and private sectors.

Our members played a vital role throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, from supporting contact tracing efforts, to business closure enforcement during the various stages of lockdown. Following the gradual reopening of businesses EHPs were at the forefront of inspecting establishments to ensure that they were COVID-secure and complying with government guidelines.

We have recently refreshed our Environmental Health Manifesto which has been circulated to a select number of MPs and Peers. Our key asks within our Manifesto include ensuring the UK maintains our high food standards in future trade deals, take tougher action on water companies polluting our rivers and waterways, as well as making it easier for local authorities to use selective licensing to improve housing conditions.

CIEH have also expressed our concern with what appears to be this Government's deregulatory direction of travel. Evidenced not only in respect to the Retained EU Law Bill, which threatened to sunset thousands of EU derived laws which underpinned much of our regulatory framework, but more recently with the Government's 'Smarter Regulation to Grow the Economy' proposals. We are urging the Government to abandon its 'health vs wealth' dichotomy, as you will be firmly aware, a healthy population is vital to a thriving economy.

We wish to work closely with you and your party to stress the importance of maintaining and enhancing our regulatory framework so that we may continue to enjoy the excellent levels of environmental and public health we have enjoyed up to date in the United Kingdom. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss our Environmental Health Manifesto with you more fully, as well as how the CIEH and our membership community can support any incoming government in ensuring the UK remains a regulatory world leader.

Thank you very much for your time and we look forward to working constructively with you going forward.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Phil James
Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health