



Mary Creagh,
Minister for Protected Landscapes,
House of Commons,
London.
SW1A 0AA

6 July 2025

Dear Mary Creagh,

We support many of the reform proposals recommended by the Landscapes Review headed by Julian Glover (commonly known as the Glover Review). We agree that governance of our National Park Authorities could be improved to drive nature recovery and social justice and the key role of young people in this vitally important mission.

We welcome your commitment to new legislation to make this happen and we are writing to urge you, as the Minister for Protected Landscapes, to implement the key recommendations of the Glover Report as soon as possible including to bringing forward and delivering on the Government's commitment to reform the governance of our National Parks in England as part of a drive to ensure our National Parks and landscapes are fit for the future.

Our National Parks are among the UK's greatest natural treasures — but without reform National Parks' contribution to protect nature, tackle the climate crisis, and improve access to green spaces will be seriously compromised. A first, but not final step, is a rethink of the governance of National Parks. National Parks are for everyone so their Boards must be representative. We need leaders with diverse perspectives, and the passion, skills and unique experiences to lead this transformation.

Any new law must ensure:

- More innovative National Park Boards of a size that suits the needs of each National Park.
- A higher proportion (at least 50%) of nationally appointed members with the expertise and local knowledge to contribute to needs of each National Park.
- Diversity in experience, perspectives and skills to be representative and relevant to today's challenges - especially in climate, biodiversity, and inclusion.



- Supporting young people to be appointed to Boards, with accessible routes into governance for young people, supported by mentoring and training.

But please do not limit reform to national park governance. National Park Boards also need the tools to drive nature recovery and social justice. The Glover Review provides workable proposals of how these aims can be promoted which are all the more significant in the light of the financial pressures faced by our National Parks authorities. For example, the Campaign for National Parks Health Check Report reveals the dire state of nature within our national parks see <https://www.cnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/National-Parks-Health-Check-Report-Nature-Recovery-2024.pdf>. Action is needed now to reverse this decline.

We encourage you to revisit the Glover Review and meet with Campaign for National Parks and the inspiring young people already making a difference. They have the new ideas, lived experience, and energy our National Parks so badly need and can help you deliver.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Nield', on a light green rectangular background.

Sarah Nield

Chair, New Forest Association