



JACOB REES-MOGG, MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH EAST SOMERSET

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Chris Head, Esq.,
The Mill,
Tunbridge Road,
Chew Magna,
Somerset, BS40 8SP

4 August 2013

Dear Mr Head,

Please find enclosed a letter I have received from Richard Benyon MP, Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries, about the need for affordable flood insurance.

I hope that Mr Benyon's letter is helpful in addressing the concerns you raised and in clarifying the government's position. You will note that the proposed approach will need parliamentary approval and would therefore take a couple of years to come into effect.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further help.

With every good wish,

Yours truly,

Jacob Rees-Mogg

Enc.

09 AUG 2013



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Your ref:
Our ref: MC316170/DK

7 August 2013

From Richard Benyon MP
Minister for Natural Environment and Fisheries

Dear Jacob

Thank you for your letter of 2 July, enclosing a letter from your constituent, Mr Chris Head, on behalf of Chew Valley Flood Forum, about the need for affordable flood insurance following the expiry of the Statement of Principles.

A headline agreement was announced between Government and the Association of British Insurers on the future of flood insurance on 27 June that would enable people living to high-risk areas to get affordable flood insurance in future.

It is expected that the proposed approach, known as Flood Re, would take a couple of years before it could be implemented, because of the need to get Parliamentary agreement and State Aid approval from the European Commission. We would bring Flood Re into operation as soon as possible after the Water Bill has passed through Parliament.

Until Flood Re is in operation the insurance industry has agreed to continue to abide by its commitments under the 2008 Statement of Principles and continue to make flood insurance available to customers in areas of high flood risk. We are exploring with the industry what further commitments it can make to help people access affordable insurance before the legislation is implemented, for instance by providing better information about what households can do to reduce their bills. If people are unhappy with a quote, they should always shop around for a better deal.

Yours ever

Richard

RICHARD BENYON MP

