



Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

9 May 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

**Keep your promise to ban the sale of horticultural peat this year.**

Two years ago, the UK Government promised to ban the sale of horticultural peat to amateur gardeners by 2024. Public support for this action is overwhelming, with over 95% of respondents to the government's consultation in favour of government taking action to ban retail peat sales.

However, since making this commitment, progress has stalled, and the legislation needed to enact a ban is nowhere to be seen.

The needless extraction of peat for horticulture should have been outlawed decades ago. You've seen in your own constituency the invaluable role peat plays in mitigating climate change, in flood management and providing a range of environmental and social benefits.

Habitat destruction is a key driver of species decline, and one in six species are now at risk of extinction in Britain. What's more, the ongoing failure to protect peatlands is hampering our ability to tackle climate change, with emissions from degraded peatlands now making up 4% of total UK greenhouse gas emissions.

With a general election fast approaching, your government will be judged by the public and by history on whether it can deliver on promises it has made to the British people.

**Without delivering on your government's commitment to ban the sale of peat this year, you cannot credibly go into the next election claiming to have kept your promises on the environment.**

Time is not on our side, but the government has demonstrated it can readily find Parliamentary time to pass legislation when it wants to. The Wildlife Trusts urge you to make this a priority and end the destructive trade in horticultural peat before the election.

Yours sincerely,

Crag Bennett

Chief Executive, The Wildlife Trusts