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Legislation and
Governance Unit

By email only

10 November 2025

Dear Dame Glenys

Failure to implement environmental law on illegal deforestation in UK supply chains

The Environment Act 2021 received Royal Assent four years ago yesterday. The anniversary of the passing of this landmark environmental legislation is a significant moment. It is, however, blighted by the continued delay in implementing its Schedule 17, which empowers ministers to bring forward measures to create deforestation-free supply chains.

Schedule 17 [came into force](#) on 30 September 2022. While its implementation requires public consultation and detailed policy development, it is of deep concern that it remains unimplemented four years after Royal Assent, three years after it came into force and nearly three years since its inclusion as a key commitment of EIP23.

Parliamentarians strongly supported these measures during the passage of the Environment Bill but wanted a stronger approach and urgent action. This implementation failure has meant that products of illegal deforestation remain in UK supply chains, with consumers often unaware of the impact of their purchases. More significantly, UK supply chains have continued to drive illegal deforestation, harming international climate and nature goals and forest people and communities.

It is now a matter of significant public interest for these provisions to be implemented without further delay, especially considering that the EU Deforestation Regulation will apply to certain business from 30 December 2025 and the timing of national elections in Scotland and Wales will affect their parliaments' timetables for consenting to legislation in 2026. We would be grateful for this to be taken up by the OEP at the highest level with Defra ministers.

Yours sincerely

Ruth Chambers

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Senior fellow

Cc Toby Perkins MP, Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee

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**Leadership
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