



Member of Parliament for Fareham and Waterlooville
HOUSE OF COMMONS

Baroness Taylor of Stevenage
Lords Minister for Housing and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

22nd January 2025

Dear Minister,

Re: Inability to Save Protected Trees – TPOs & Article 5 Certificates

I am writing jointly with Paul Homes MP to raise our dissatisfaction about your previous correspondence on the issue of Tree Protection Orders (TPOs).

In October 2024, I wrote to you, making you aware of Fareham Borough Council's (FBC) plea for the Government to amend legislation for TPOs. I highlighted the increasingly prevalent issue of Local Authorities' inability to save protected trees. This is because they are at the behest of insurance companies that seek to cut down trees at the first point of contact and are often successful in achieving this result.

Since your response (Ref: MC2024/23715), in which you fail to acknowledge the scale of this issue and to take action to rectify this situation, the trees that FBC referred to have now, predictably, had their TPOs removed. These previously protected trees will be felled soon.

Positively, you stated, "I can assure you that I have passed on your comments to departmental officials for their consideration." We would like to know what your departmental officials have concluded.

To further understand the scale of the issue and the industry's views on this matter, I met with the Association of British Insurers (ABI). The ABI informed me this is an increasingly common occurrence, and, resultantly, they are working with DEFRA and Forestry England on a new protocol that should improve the current situation, to be introduced in spring. Could we please have further details on this protocol and a progress update?

Referring to your response to Paul Holmes MP (Ref: MC2024/28070), you stated that a decision to reinstate Article 5 certificates "will be kept under regular review." Could we please have an update on your latest review on the decision to reintroduce Article 5 certificates?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Suella Braverman'.

Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP, Member of Parliament for Fareham & Waterlooville

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Holmes'.

Paul Holmes MP, Member of Parliament for Hamble Valley