

## Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall calls on PM to “get a grip” on climate and nature inaction

- Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall says the PM must “get a grip” and back the Climate and Nature Bill as it returns to Parliament next week
- Delivering a letter to Keir Starmer this morning, the celebrity chef led a coalition of scientists, business leaders and campaigners to Downing Street
- Energy Secretary Ed Miliband and Environment Secretary Steve Reed backed the “spirit and substance” of the Bill earlier this year, but campaigners say action has stalled

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

**\*\*PHOTOS AVAILABLE FROM 10:00 FRIDAY [HERE](#)\*\***

**HUGH FEARNLEY-WHITTINGSTALL has accused ministers of “going into hiding” as the Climate and Nature Bill returns to Parliament next week.**

The celebrity chef led a coalition of scientists, business leaders and campaigners to Downing Street this morning [Friday] to deliver a letter to the Prime Minister, urging him to back the law change.

The letter warns of increased “floods, economic instability, and threats to national security” if climate change and nature depletion are not properly addressed.

Those joining the broadcaster included Sarah Morse, Triodos Bank’s Chief Financial Officer; Ellen Bradley, UK Youth for Nature Co-Director; the Reverend Canon Giles Goddard, Faith for the Climate Chair; and Oxford University’s Professor Dame E.J. Milner-Gulland.

The signatories hit out at the “vast amounts of public money” being spent on fossil fuel subsidies and argue ministers’ previous commitments to enact the ambitions of the Bill should be honoured.

If passed, the Climate and Nature Bill would require the Government to involve workers and communities in setting out a joined-up strategy, for delivering the UKs international climate and nature commitments—and to report annually on measurable progress, as promised by ministers.

The private members’ bill was effectively put on pause by government whips back in January but received record support across the Commons, including almost 90 Labour MPs.

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband and Environment Secretary Steve Reed announced their backing for the “spirit and substance” of the Bill earlier this year, but campaigners say commitments to enact the proposals have stalled.

The Bill is set to return to the Commons on Friday 11 July 2025 but is unlikely to be debated due to Parliamentary time constraints. Campaigners say the Government must give the Bill time to be debated and voted on in order to follow through on their previous promises.

Campaigners also called on the Government to adopt a cross-government approach to better engage with the Bill’s Parliamentary supporters and drive meaningful change across Whitehall.

The action follows more than 650 letters to the Prime Minister being delivered straight to the door of downstreet and from towns and cities across the country, stretching from Inverness to Canterbury and Bristol to Lancaster, this week.



The coordinated letter writing campaign, led by [Zero Hour](#), is thought to be a first of its kind on an environmental issue in British politics.

Today marks exactly one year since Keir Starmer's landslide election victory last summer, with the letter being delivered to Downing Street ahead of the Bill's listing for a Commons debate next Friday.

**Dr Amy McDonnell, Co-Director of Zero Hour, said:**

"Today marks one year since Keir Starmer's historic election victory. Despite securing an overwhelming mandate for change, ministers have yet to properly seize the opportunity to redouble the fight against the climate and nature crisis, and in turn boost our economic and energy security.

"Just this week, we have seen hundreds of grassroots campaigners from across the country call on the Government to make good on their previous promises and take the action hundreds of MPs – some 90 of them Labour – support.

"With the Climate and Nature Bill listed for a Commons debate next week, and senior cabinet ministers supporting the 'spirit and substance' of the proposals, the Prime Minister must now give the Bill the time it deserves to be properly debated and voted on in Parliament."

**Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, celebrity chef and broadcaster, said:**

"The Prime Minister must get a grip on the climate and nature crisis which threatens our economy, our health and our food and energy security.

"We cannot allow the next year of this Labour government to be a continuation of the dither and delay we witnessed under the previous administration.

"While some ministers appear to have gone into hiding since previously pledging their support for the ambitions of the Climate and Nature Bill, we know, and they know, that failing to act will have devastating consequences for our future. It must be brought back to Parliament for a proper debate."

**ENDS**

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**About Zero Hour**

- [Zero Hour](#) is a UK-based environmental organisation leading the [Real Change](#) for Climate and Nature campaign and is behind the [Climate and Nature Bill](#)
- The campaign's mission is to strengthen the UK's legal commitments to tackling climate change and reversing biodiversity loss, and advocates for urgent, science-based action to address the twin crises of climate breakdown and ecological collapse

**About the Climate and Nature Bill**



- The [Climate and Nature Bill](#) was debated in Parliament on 24 January 2025, but was adjourned by government whips
- Ministers have since publicly stated their ambition to work with the Bill's co-sponsors to enact the spirit and substance of the proposals, including through introducing new legislation
- The Bill is set to return to the Commons on 11 July 2025 but is unlikely to be debated due to Parliamentary time constraints
- The 'CAN' Bill is backed by over 250 Parliamentarians, including Ed Davey, Carla Denyer and Zac Goldsmith
- It enjoys the support of 75,000 members of the public; over 1,100 businesses, NGOs and charities; 1,200 [climate scientists](#) and health experts; and representatives of all main faiths
- High-profile endorsers include [The Co-operative Bank](#), Patagonia, The W.I., Save British Farming, [The National Trust](#), Arup, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, [Ecotricity](#), The Wildlife Trusts, Ecosia and Triodos Bank

### Copy of the letter (delivered on Friday 4 July 2025)

*Dear Sir Keir Starmer,*

*Nearly a year ago, you were elected on a promise of 'change'. Yet, we have seen little progress, only broken pledges and missed opportunities.*

*We face soaring food prices, cold homes, overstretched NHS services, and the destruction of our natural habitats, rivers, and green spaces.*

*You campaigned for a Britain ready to tackle 21st-century challenges, particularly the climate and nature crisis; a Britain that capitalises on the opportunities a just-led transition offers, and puts workers before profits.*

*At COP29, you acknowledged the risks of warming beyond 1.5°C—floods, economic instability, and threats to national security—while promising that a Labour Government would seize the opportunities of energy independence to boost living standards.*

*But, the UK is off track to meet its 2015 Paris and 2022 Montreal climate and nature commitments.*

*And yet, vast amounts of public money is being spent on subsidies for unproven technologies that benefit major fossil fuel corporations more than communities and workers like us.*

*We risk losing the benefits of action: lower energy bills, warmer homes, thriving ecosystems, better public transport, and clean rivers and air. By failing our international pledges, you let down the most vulnerable people.*

*The Climate and Nature Bill, debated in Parliament in January 2025, offers a solution.*

*Crafted by leading scientists, it would make the UK's climate and nature targets legally binding and actively involve communities in a fair way forward—driving transformative change, and creating a greener, fairer, more prosperous UK.*

*We know that tackling the climate and nature crisis will deliver REAL change for people across the UK—those disillusioned with politics, hit hard by the cost of living crisis, and worried about the future. We must rise to the challenge and call for action that puts people*



*first—shaped by communities and designed to benefit the public, rather than large multinational corporations.*

*Yet despite the Energy Secretary's promise to deliver the "spirit and substance" of the Bill, no action has followed.*

*On the 11th of July, the CAN Bill will return to the House of Commons, but is unlikely to progress without your Government's support. With your huge majority, you have the power to grant it emergency debate time and deliver the change you promised.*

*Prime Minister, we want REAL change for a better Britain. People want you to step up climate and nature action—not pull back.*

*Will you ensure the CAN Bill is allocated more time, debated and voted on in this parliamentary session?*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, Chef and Broadcaster*

*Sarah Morse, CFO, Triodos Bank UK*

*Ellen Bradley, Co-Director, UK Youth for Nature*

*Canon Giles Goddard, Chair, Faith for the Climate*

*Prof. Dame E.J. Milner-Gulland, University of Oxford*