



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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CUSTOMER SERVICES

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20 March 2018

Dear Mr Winter

Thank you for providing me with a copy of your letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Mr Cross,  
Chief Executive of Natural England.

I thoroughly enjoy walking along the South West Coastal Path and so I recognise its value to both my constituents, and tourists who come and visit our wonderful coastline. Following your letter, I tabled a Written Parliamentary Question raising the matter with the Minister, Therese Coffey. I have enclosed a copy of the question and answer for your information and if I can be of further assistance, do let me know.

Thank you again for taking the time to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Heaton-Jones MP  
Conservative, North Devon

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has provided the following answer to your written parliamentary question (130535):

**Question:**

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he has taken to ensure continued funding for the South West Coastal Path national trail. (130535)

Tabled on: 28 February 2018

**Answer:**

**Dr Thérèse Coffey:**

Business planning and financial allocations have not yet been completed and Natural England is not yet in a position to announce the level of funding for the South West Coast Path national trail for 2018/19.

Natural England wrote to each of the national trail partnerships last December making an interim offer of 50% of the funding made to each of the national trails in 2017/18. The offer was an advance contribution towards the costs the partnerships would incur in 2018/19 in the absence of Natural England being able to confirm its overall funding position for 2018/19.