

**Dr. Sarah Wollaston M.P.**

Member of Parliament for Totnes



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Hilary Winter

SW/ns  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Forum Officer

Devon Countryside Access Forum

Letter by email: [hilary.winter@devon.gov.uk](mailto:hilary.winter@devon.gov.uk)

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Dear Hilary,

I have received a response from Natural England and I am enclosing a copy for you.

I hope this clarifies the situation.

Best wishes,

[Redacted Signature]

**Dr Sarah Wollaston MP**

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**James Diamond**

[James.Diamond@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:James.Diamond@naturalengland.org.uk)

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018



Natural England  
Sterling House  
Dix's Field  
Exeter EX1 1QA  
Tel: 07771 838 526

Emailed to: [nina.smith@parliament.uk](mailto:nina.smith@parliament.uk)

Dear Dr Wollaston,

**Funding for the South West Coast Path National Trail**

Thank you for your letter of 27<sup>th</sup> February 2018 to James Cross on behalf of your constituent Hilary Winter, regarding our funding for National Trails in 2018/19. Hilary has also written directly to James Cross on this matter. James has asked me to respond on his behalf as Director of Operations.

I believe that there has been a misunderstanding. To clarify, our funding offer of 50% of the 2017/18 allocation for National Trails is an interim, not a final offer. We wrote on 6<sup>th</sup> December to National Trail Partnership Chairs, explaining that:

'This is the amount we can offer at this stage of budget negotiations and we will review this again once we have agreed our final funding position for 2018/19. At that time we will advise of our further offer and we will also review the Terms and Conditions and confirm the claim process.'

Budget negotiations with Defra are still ongoing, but we expect to be able to confirm later this month the full National Trails budget for 2018/19.

I do apologise for any confusion caused to your constituent by our interim offer, which was made in response to a specific request from the National Trail Partnership Chairs group. Please be assured we fully recognise the benefits that National Trails bring to local economies, and we will continue to work to ensure that these national assets are protected into the future.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

James Diamond  
Director, Operations

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