



National Audit Office

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Helping the nation spend wisely

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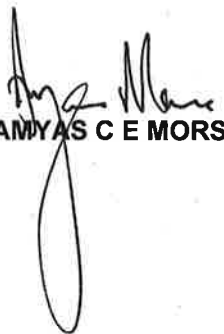
Dear Sir Desmond,

NEW FOREST HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

On 28 October 2016 I wrote to you setting out our proposed work in relation to the concerns you raised on the New Forest High Level Stewardship scheme in your letter dated 10 October 2016. Our enquiries have continued across the month of November and I am now writing to you with an update.

One of my directors, Damien Brewitt, has taken steps to gather material from Natural England's area management team, the Rural Payment Agency's inspection team and reviewed the NAO's own audit work in relation to the Agricultural Funds audit. Due to delays in obtaining appropriate contact details and accessing information, the team are still awaiting responses from Natural England but this is expected to be received by the end of this month. The team will then evaluate all the material received from the various stakeholders and decide how best to take this forward.

I will write to you again by 12 January 2017 with a further update on progress.


AMYAS C E MORSE