



# National Audit Office

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Sir Amyas Morse KCB

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## Helping the nation spend wisely

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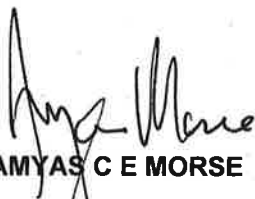
Reference GF 1639 16  
Date 29 March 2017

*Dear Sir Desmond,*

### NEW FOREST HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

Further to my letter of 20 February 2017, I am writing to update you on our continuing enquiries regarding the New Forest Higher Level Stewardship scheme (HLS). My team are now looking into the matters raised in the recent information you shared with us on 14 March 2017 in relation to the eligibility of the New Forest Verderers to receive HLS funding. Given the significant amount of associated legislation that sets out roles and responsibilities in the New Forest, our enquiries into this matter are ongoing at this stage. We also await final responses from both the Forestry Commission and Natural England before we are able to respond to your queries.

Thank you for bringing these matters to my attention. I will write to you in the coming weeks with my detailed findings.

  
AMYAS C E MORSE