



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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House of Commons
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23 APR 2018

Your ref: [REDACTED]
Our ref: [REDACTED]
15m April 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 29 March on behalf of your constituent about congestion on the River Lea.

The responsibility for individual waterways sits with the respective navigation authority. I am aware, however, that the rise in the numbers of houseboats is an issue for all navigation authorities as more people chose to make houseboats along our waterways their homes.

My officials have pulled together a group comprising of representatives from a number of interested organisations, including local government, the Environment Agency and a number of navigation authorities, which includes the Canal & River Trust. The group's remit is to serve as a platform for discussions to take place on a number of issues around moored houseboats. Although these discussions are at an early stage, I can reassure your constituent that there is a clear wish amongst the members of the group to find appropriate solutions that balance the needs of waterway users against those who chose to live on our inland waterways.

Yours sincerely,

Thérèse

DR THERESE COFFEY MP