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28 November 08

From the Secretary of State  
The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

Dear Mary,

#### CHANGES IN MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AT DEFRA

When the responsibility for climate change passed to DECC, we allocated responsibilities to the new Defra ministerial team. We knew it would take a little time for the new arrangements to bed down. We are now writing to let you know that following some changes, the responsibility for dealing with floods, water and coastal erosion will now form part of Huw's portfolio. This is a logical fit, bring these areas together with the marine environment and inland waterways.

We will both have a strong interest in these important areas, not least because of the decisions ahead on the Floods and Water Bill, the Response to Sir Michael Pitt's review and the current Ofwat-led review of water price limits.

We look forward to working with you in what will undoubtedly be a very busy year ahead of us!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Benn".

HILARY BENN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Huw Irranca-Davies".

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES