Dear Mr Hefin Jones,

I’m writing to notify you of my wish to speak at the CHSPL Issue Specific Hearing 1 (ISH1) on Biodiversity/Nature Conservation Matters currently scheduled for July 17, 2019.

I wish to speak about the presence of European eels (*Anguilla anguilla*) at the Cleve Hill site, which are a Critically Endangered species according to the Red List of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). See [https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60344/45833138](https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/60344/45833138) for details. Everything possible must be done to safeguard existing European eel populations on Nagden Marshes, in particular protecting the drainage channels and freshwater courses within the site where eels grow to adulthood and ensuring that the outfalls from the marshes onto Faversham Creek and the Swale comply with the latest legal requirements to permit the inward and outward passage of elvers and eels. See EC Council Regulation No 1100/2007 of 18 September 2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel. *Anguilla anguilla* is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species, is on the OSPAR list of threatened and/or declining species and habitats, and is a species of **principal importance** for the purpose of conservation of biodiversity under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

Thank you and kind regards,

Matthew Hatchwell