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Thank you for your email and attached letter of 10 April to the Secretary of State about Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Stockholm Convention. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area and I apologise for the delay in replying.

As a party to the Stockholm Convention, the UK Government is committed to eliminating the production, use and emissions of POPs, whilst ensuring that POPs waste is destroyed or irreversibly transformed to reduce the adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

Proceedings at the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention are ongoing and decisions will be published on the Stockholm Convention website in due course.

Thank you for also highlighting the particular issue of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) pollution. The Government takes the need to address legacy POPs, including PCBs, very seriously and is taking action to prevent further adverse impacts on wildlife and the environment. The UK commitments on POPs have been set out in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and the UK's Stockholm Convention National Implementation Plan.

Yours sincerely,

DR THERESE COFFEY MP