



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Baroness Taylor of Stevenage

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing
and Local Government*

2 Marsham Street
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Our reference: MC2025/27018

Mary Kelly Foy MP
House of Commons
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Baroness Whitaker
House of Lords
London
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12th January 2026

Dear *Mary and James*

Thank you for your letter of 26 September as Chair and Co-Chair of the APPG for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma, regarding Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) rules for Gypsy and Traveller sites. I have been asked to reply, and I apologise for the significant delay in doing so.

I appreciate you taking the time to share the barrier that BNG costs can be to the development of new sites.

Following our consultation last year on improving BNG for minor, medium and brownfield development, we are introducing targeted changes to make the system work better whilst maintaining our commitment to nature recovery.

Smaller developments on sites below 0.2 hectares will be exempted from BNG requirements, reducing costs for small sites and saving local planning authorities time and money.

We will also consult on an additional targeted exemption for brownfield residential development, testing appropriate definitions of brownfield and a range of potential exemption sizes up to 2.5 hectares. By focusing specifically on residential development and on brownfield land, we will protect the delivery of BNG on larger greenfield habitats.

We will also introduce measures to make it easier, quicker, and cheaper to deliver BNG offsite as set out in the consultation, benefiting a wide range of development.

These changes are targeted and proportionate, focused on easing burdens on the smallest sites where biodiversity impacts are lower and for those who are seeking to progress residential development on brownfield land.

A full consultation response and implementation timeline is expected to be published soon. Until changes are officially implemented (which will require secondary legislation in some cases), BNG continues to apply in its current form and developers should continue to follow existing guidance and legislation when delivering BNG.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Taylor', written in a cursive style.

BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government