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Your reference:

Our reference: AT/AZ

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**Councillor Alison Teal  
Executive Member for  
Sustainable Neighbourhoods,  
Wellbeing, Parks and Leisure**  
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The Rt Hon George Eustice MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dear Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,

I am writing to you regarding the grouse moor burning season which began in October. There were over thirty large fires set on moorland close to Sheffield, despite the Climate Change Committee advising the Government in June to “extend the ban on rotational burning of peat from certain protected upland bog sites to all peatland before the start of the burning season in 2021” to help ensure peatland is restored to its healthy, deeper state.

Communities downwind in the Loxley Valley were subject to polluting smoke and deprived of clean air. If the Climate Change Committee’s advice had been actioned, the moorland burning would have been illegal.

Every fire set this season signals the Government’s unwillingness to protect the region’s carbon-rich peatlands and nearby communities from damage in the challenge to tackle climate change. As Defra has acknowledged, “burning is damaging to peatland formation” and “makes it difficult or impossible to restore these habitats to their natural state”.

Not only is peatland vitally important for the sequestration of carbon. Peat will hold close to twenty times its own weight in water. This makes it particularly helpful for Natural Flood Management, as well as providing a natural form of water purification.

Burning moorland prevents peat restoration and therefore increases the risk of flooding in Sheffield.

The practice of moorland burning must end entirely for the health and protection of nearby communities, and the commensurate benefits of carbon reduction for the planet.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Terry Fox', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor Terry Fox  
Leader of the Council**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alison Teal', written in a cursive style.

**Councillor Alison Teal  
Executive Member for Sustainable  
Neighbourhoods, Wellbeing, Parks &  
Leisure**