



**BRITISH SOCIETY
OF SOIL SCIENCE**

British Society of Soil Science

Cranfield University, Building 42A, Room GO6
Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL

T: +44 (0)1234 752 983

E: admin@soils.org.uk

W: www.soils.org.uk

The Rt. Hon. George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

By email: george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk

Tuesday 15 February 2022

Dear Mr Eustice,

RE: National Advocate for Soil Health

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is an established international membership organisation committed to the study of soil in its widest aspects. The society brings together those working within academia, practitioners implementing soil science in industry and all those working with, or with an interest in soils. We will be hosting the [World Congress of Soil Science](#) at the SEC in Glasgow from 31 July – 5 August 2022. The Congress theme is *Crossing Boundaries, Changing Society* and upwards of 2,500 international soil scientists, practitioners, and policy makers are expected to attend.

As you are likely to be aware, soils underpin all aspects of the [UN Sustainability Goals](#). Soils support food and farming, with 95% of the food we eat coming from soil (reference: FAO), and soils are critical to habitats, biodiversity (both above and below ground) and flood risk mitigation. Healthy soils which are managed sustainably can have a positive impact on mitigating the impacts of climate change and pollution, whilst feeding an expanding population.

We are writing to recommend that the UK government implement the position of National Advocate for Soil Health, similar to the role which the [Australian government](#) launched in 2015. The proposed role would be to:

- actively advocate across Government departments and externally, for soil health
- work with researchers to ensure soils research met the needs of the UK's farmers and other soil managers
- advocate for adequate knowledge and supporting systems to help farmers actively build healthy soils.

If this proposal has your support, we would be delighted to launch this initiative at the World Congress of Soil Science, where international experts and policy-makers will be present. We



**BRITISH SOCIETY
OF SOIL SCIENCE**

British Society of Soil Science

Cranfield University, Building 42A, Room GO6
Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL

T: +44 (0)1234 752 983

E: admin@soils.org.uk

W: www.soils.org.uk

would be happy to work with Government to implement this role and develop the framework to support its delivery.

If you would like to discuss this proposal further, please contact my colleague Sarah Garry, Executive Officer via sarahgarry@soils.org.uk, who would be delighted to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Bruce Lascelles

President of the British Society of Soil Science

Cc. Rachel Boulderstone, Joint Head of Soils and Peatlands Team, Defra