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Food poverty in Cornwall and recent government report

KIRKHAM, Jayne (MP) <jayne.kirkham.mp@parliament.uk>

2 March 2026 at 13:58

To: gavin barker <gavinbark@gmail.com>

Cc: Andrew Yates <andrewy@cornwallindependentpovertyforum.com>, Tim Hughes <timhughes22@gmail.com>, Lucy Jones <Lucy@thecornishfoodboxcompany.co.uk>

Good afternoon,

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate your contacting me on this issue.

I share your concerns. We are already seeing some of their impacts here in Cornwall and the wider South West, with recent flooding and extreme weather such as the devastation caused by Goretta.

The Government's recent national security assessment on global biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse underlines the seriousness. These findings make it very clear that environmental degradation is not only an ecological issue but also a national security challenge. This will certainly have implications for food systems, global stability, health, and the economy. I can assure you that these warnings are taken extremely seriously.

The publication was delayed, which is not uncommon, especially with something of this importance. It is likely that there was a delay in publishing for admin reasons and because various officials need to consider reports and what response we need to make to them, rather than a suppression.

This assessment rightly sets out that meeting our commitments under the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is essential. The Government is already acting on this at home and abroad. This includes major investment in sustainable farming, large-scale peatland and woodland restoration, protection of pollinators, improvements to water quality and landmark legislation to safeguard our oceans. Internationally, the UK continues to invest in forest and ocean protection and support more sustainable global food and land-use systems.

Ministers have agreed to deliver an annual climate and nature statement to Parliament, strengthen nature recovery efforts, deepen public participation, and improve coordination with advisory bodies. The first of these statements on climate and nature was delivered last year, setting out these and further actions – such as developing a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, expanding Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and making record investments in clean energy and nature restoration.

Adaptation is a crucial part of this response. We need to strengthen our resilience. We are making progress on adaptation, taking necessary actions across a range of policy areas. Importantly, £7.9 billion has been committed (over 10 years) to the largest flooding programme in our history, this is for better protection. But I recognise further action is needed to meet the scale of the challenge and I am glad that this Government is committed to an ambitious and impactful fourth National Adaptation Programme, which is due in 2028.

I've requested a debate on 'National resilience in extreme climate and weather events', so I hope to keep the conversation going following the recent storms.

I will keep pushing and supporting action that tackles climate change and nature loss.

Yours
Jayne



Jayne Kirkham

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From: gavin barker <gavinbark@gmail.com>

Sent: 19 February 2026 11:59

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