



**ANGLING
TRUST**

**Countryside
Alliance**



Institute of Fisheries Management

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By e-mail to: George Eustice MP, Fisheries Minister, Defra
ps.george.eustice@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Thursday, 14 February 2019

Dear George,

Government cuts and marketing ban are damaging angling

Thank you for your reply to the Angling Trust regarding the funding of fisheries in England, but we must express our collective dismay that you have not recognised the very serious situation with regard to funding of the Environment Agency's fisheries work. We believe that the EA no longer has sufficient funds to meet its statutory duties to maintain, improve and develop fisheries. Other departments in the EA do indeed perform functions which are vital to fisheries, but these have also been cut to a point where they are no longer fit for purpose. Investigations, enforcement of regulations passed by parliament and preventative works have declined dramatically and the fisheries and angling sector has lost confidence in them.

We will of course continue to encourage anglers to avoid scam web sites, but a much more effective solution would be for government to take regulatory action against Google and other search engines who make money from advertising these sites, ensuring that they come up at the top of any search for buying a fishing licence online. Such action would benefit millions of other people who are scammed when trying to pay the government. We urge you to look at this again.

We would like to arrange a meeting with you to discuss this issue and the failure to deliver statutory duties by the government and the Environment Agency.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Lloyd (Angling Trust & Fish Legal)
Mark Bilsby (Atlantic Salmon Trust)
Tim Bonner (Countryside Alliance)
Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK)
Arlin Rickard (The Rivers Trust)
Shaun Leonard (Wild Trout Trust)
David Bunt (Institute of Fisheries Management)