

RACHEL REEVES MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Seacole Building  
2 Marsham St  
London  
SW1P 4DF

18 March 2019

Dear Michael,

Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme

I am writing to you again about the urgent need for the Government to fully fund the flood defence scheme needed to protect my constituents in Leeds West.

As you will recall, local businesses in Kirkstall suffered terribly due to the massive floods experienced on Boxing Day 2015.

In the past few days, Kirkstall in my constituency and other areas were again hit by heavy rains that left many people wondering if they were on the brink of being flooded. It was a near miss that gave many people sleepless nights – something that they are being forced to endure repeatedly as a result of Government inaction.

More than three years on from Storm Eva, it appears the Government is still refusing to provide Leeds with the promised level of flood protection required to keep people and businesses safe.

Despite my repeated contacts with your department, my constituents are still no closer to getting the reassurance they need.

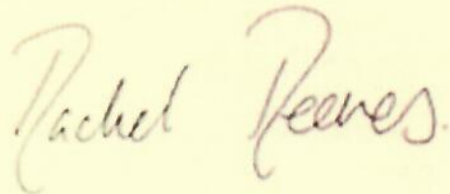
I have been told by your ministerial colleague that decisions over this funding will now form part of the discussions surrounding the Chancellor of the Exchequer's upcoming Spending Review.

I would urge you to impress upon the Chancellor the vital importance that Leeds gets full flood defences as quickly as possible.

Member of Parliament for Leeds West

Businesses and households in Leeds cannot afford any further delays. The absence of flood defences is literally keeping people awake at night every time there is heavy rain. That has to end.

They should not be forced to wait until they are knee-deep in water trying to rescue their businesses or possessions before Government action and funding is forthcoming. We need a one-in-200 year level of protection against flooding to ensure homes and businesses are properly defended.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Rachel Reeves". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rachel Reeves  
Member of Parliament for Leeds West