Dear [Name],

UK Referendum on membership of the European Union: the consequences for wildlife

As I’m sure you will appreciate, the Sussex Wildlife Trust is concerned about the implications for wildlife – specifically in Sussex and also for the natural environment more widely – of the forthcoming referendum on the UK’s membership of the European Union.

I am particularly concerned that the environment has been at best a marginal consideration and the implications for nature and wildlife seem to be entirely absent from the extensive public debates on the topic.

It is difficult to find any mention in the publicity material of either the ‘remain’ or the ‘leave’ campaign which addresses this issue, so I have sent the attached letters to each campaign lead organisation.

I would also very much like to know your views on the likely future for wildlife in Sussex under either scenario. What do you believe would be the impacts on our wildlife?

If the vote is to leave the European Union, what will replace the environmental legislation we have in the UK which, as we know, to a very large extent arises from EU policy and law?

If the vote is to remain, will the potential reforms that have been negotiated by the Prime Minister result in changes to environmental legislation that will be less beneficial to Sussex wildlife?

I should let you know that I am writing to all Sussex MPs and to South East England MEPs. You might also be interested to know that I am posting weekly blogs on the Sussex Wildlife Trust’s EU Referendum webpage: www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/euref. These set out our experiences of working with EU policy and legislation and how we perceive that these influence the work we undertake to meet our charitable objectives.

I look forward to hearing from you, and I will be pleased to make your views known through our website.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Tony Whitbread,
Chief Executive

[Contact Information]

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