



ALISON GRIFFITHS MP

Member of Parliament for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton

The Rt Hon. Emma Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Wednesday 17 December 2025

Ref: AG/TG/2512

Dear Emma,

I write regarding the *Baltic Klipper* incident, the loss of containers and cargo, and the resulting debris washing up along the West Sussex coastline, including within my constituency of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton.

While local authorities and relevant agencies are dealing with the immediate clean-up, the incident has raised broader questions from my constituents about the materials involved and whether the current regulatory framework is sufficient to minimise environmental harm when incidents do occur.

First, the use of polyurethane insulation foam within refrigerated containers. Residents are concerned about the toxicity of this material, its propensity to fragment, and the long-term environmental impact when it enters the marine environment. I would be grateful for clarity on whether DEFRA considers the current regulatory approach to be adequate, and whether alternatives are being actively considered or encouraged.

Second, the extensive use of single-use plastic packaging in the transport of fresh produce. Constituents have questioned whether the volume and nature of this packaging is proportionate, and what assessment has been made of its environmental impact when cargo is lost at sea. I would welcome an outline of any work being undertaken to reduce reliance on such materials or to strengthen and/or enforce standards governing their use.

Given the level of public concern locally, I would welcome a detailed response so that I can provide accurate information to my constituents.

Yours sincerely,

Alison Griffiths MP
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