Dear Name of MP,

On the 16 February 2022, the Government announced that it would repeal the 2026 cut-off date in England.

Changes to the law introduced by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 meant that on 1 January 2026, public rights over thousands of routes would have been extinguished if they were not formally recorded on the legal record of rights of way, the definitive map.

The Government has stated that it is committed to finding a legislative opportunity to do this, as evidenced by statements made by Lord Benyon\* and Trudy Harrison\*\*. To date, the Government has not found such an opportunity.

\*Lord Benyon Statement: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-17/HL2618>

\*\*Trudy Harrison Statement: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2022-10-10/59009>

As an equestrian, the ability to record these public rights of way, which already exist in law, on the definitive map is particularly important. Equestrians have access to only 22% of the public rights of way network in England and Wales. Accessing this limited network by road is increasingly risky for equestrians; sadly, in 2022, The British Horse Society received reports that 68 horses were killed, and 139 riders injured on UK roads.

The more that the bridleway and byway network can be joined up by these unrecorded routes, the safer it will be for equestrians and all vulnerable road users.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that you will support this repeal being enacted at the earliest possible date?

With best wishes,

Your Full Name

Your Full Address including Postcode