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Dear Colleagues

I am writing to update you on the Government's plans to implement Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

I know that you and your colleagues have contributed greatly to the process of developing the policy needed for implementation and I understand that you are keen to know the likely timetable.

The Government remains committed to implementing SuDS at the earliest available opportunity, but not in a way that has any adverse impact on development. While several Government Departments are working hard on this with Defra's SuDS team, it has become clear that we will not be in a position to implement Schedule 3 from October 2014, as we had hoped. A statement will be made in the summer which will set out in greater detail the plans for implementation.

In the meantime I can confirm that we still expect the secondary legislation setting out the implementation date to be laid in Parliament approximately six months before the implementation date. This recognises the need for stakeholders to have firm dates to put in place the final implementation arrangements.

I remain grateful to you and your colleagues for all the assistance you continue to provide to us as we take this forward.

I am sending this letter to Stewart Baseley (HBF), Paul Raynes (LGA), Paul Voden (HBA), David Strand (Water UK), Mike Kiely (Planning Officers Society)

*Yours*

*Peter Unwin*

**PETER UNWIN**  
Director General for Policy Delivery Group and Chairman