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Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

3 June 2014

Dear Philip

**Preventing future flooding in the South East: call to action**

We write to seek your support in taking forward five priority actions which are critical to both preventing and reducing the impact of flooding on businesses and communities in the South East. This should be a priority for Government in view of the strategic importance of the South East economy to the UK as a whole and the sheer size of our population.

As the weather improves, it is easy to forget the devastation caused by the flooding that occurred between December 2013 and March this year; however, many of our residents are still dealing with the consequences on a daily basis and local authorities are only now beginning to understand the full costs involved in repairing the damage.

Together South East England Councils (SEEC) and South East Strategic Leaders (SESL) promote the views and interests of all tiers of local government across the South East, representing more than nine million residents. We recently wrote to Brandon Lewis MP and met with Defra Minister Dan Rogerson MP to share lessons learned during the floods and discuss key issues. We want to ensure that sufficient funding is made available for immediate repairs. We are also particularly concerned that the funding formula for future investment is not fit-for-purpose and the economic cost of flooding in the South East is being overlooked, with serious consequences for the wider UK economy.

The enclosed pamphlet illustrates the full impact of the recent events in our area by setting out a number of key facts about flooding in the South East. It also sets out five key asks that we are putting to Government. We are now calling on all South East MPs to support us in this call for action. You can help make a real difference to our residents' future by raising these important issues in Parliament as well as with colleagues in Government.

We would welcome your support on these important matters over the months ahead as our members, and their residents, continue to deal with the impact of the recent floods.

Yours sincerely

**Cllr Gordon Keymer CBE**  
Chairman, South East England Councils

**Cllr David Burbage MBE**  
Chairman, South East Strategic Leaders