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To: All Local Access Forums in England

Your ref:  
Our ref:  
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**From Jonathan Shaw MP**  
Minister for Marine, Landscape & Rural Affairs and Minister for the South East

Dear Local Access Forum member,

As we start a new year, I thought it would be timely to introduce myself to each Local Access Forum as the Minister for Marine, Landscape & Rural Affairs.

We have not long introduced new regulations and guidance for Local Access Forums, and I know that Natural England is also working towards producing a Handbook for Local Access Forum members. I hope that the guidance and regulations have assisted you in developing your role further, so that the support that you receive from Defra, in turn helps you to contribute effectively on issues which are most relevant to your specific locality.

Your recent contribution to the production of Rights of Way Improvement Plans has been invaluable and the achievement in producing the plans is a significant step forward in both raising the profile of the rights of way network and highlighting its importance to tourism and local communities.

I am grateful for the hard work that you put in to this important undertaking, and for the knowledge and expertise you bring in contributing your advice on improving public access. I look forward to working with you all in the future.

**JONATHAN SHAW**