



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Rt Hon. Lord Deben
Chairman of Committee on Climate Change
7 Holbein Place
London
SW1W 8NR

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000
E enquiries@beis.gov.uk
W www.gov.uk

15 October 2018

Dear Lord Deben,

This year marks 10 years since the passage of the Climate Change Act 2008 (CCA), a world first, and in this time we have shown that we can tackle climate change while delivering real economic growth - reducing emissions by more than 40% since 1990 while growing the economy by more than two thirds.

Through setting long term ambition, we have driven innovation and created hundreds of thousands of jobs in the low carbon economy. We have galvanised action and initiative across the UK and internationally including helping secure the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015.

Last week the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published their special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. This report deepens the scientific evidence base on the implications of pursuing efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels, as set out in the Paris Agreement.

As I announced in April, and in line with the recommendation you made earlier this year in your assessment of the Clean Growth Strategy, I am now writing to request, pursuant to s3(1) and s7(1) of the CCA, an update to the advice you provided in October 2016, as part of your report on UK climate action following the Paris Agreement. Carbon budgets already set in legislation (Carbon Budgets 3-5 covering 2018-2032) are out of scope of this request.

This advice will inform consideration of the UK's long term targets, and should include options for the date by which the UK should achieve a) a net zero greenhouse gas target and/or b) a net zero carbon target in order to contribute to the global ambitions set out in the Paris Agreement, including whether now is the right time for the UK to set such a target. Your advice should also provide options for:

- the range which UK greenhouse gas emissions reductions would need to be within, against 1990 levels, by 2050 as an appropriate contribution to the global goal of limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and
- the range which UK greenhouse gas emissions reductions would need to be within, against 1990 levels, by 2050 as an appropriate contribution towards global efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Your report should provide evidence on:

- how reductions in line with your recommendations might be delivered in key sectors of the economy; and
- the expected costs and benefits across the spectrum of scenarios in comparison to the costs and benefits of meeting the current target.

Pursuant to s41(2)(a) of the CCA, your advice and recommendations should take into account the matters set out in section 10(2) of the CCA. The assessment of costs should consider how innovation and global deployment of technologies could impact those costs, either positively or negatively, for the UK - and your assessment of benefits should also consider avoided costs.

Additionally, pursuant to s38(3) of the CCA, my colleagues the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform and the Welsh Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, co-signed below, request updated advice on the long-term emissions targets for Scotland and Wales. This advice should be consistent with the above request but provided with regards to the respective devolved statutory frameworks on climate change, including the relevant statutory target-setting criteria. In the absence of a Minister senior Northern Ireland officials have indicated their support for the advice being sought.

Please provide your advice by the end of March 2019. We are, as ever, grateful for the work that you and the Committee do, and look forward to receiving your advice.

Yours sincerely,



Roseanna Cunningham MSP
*Cabinet Secretary for
Environment, Climate Change
And Land Reform*

Scottish Government



Rt Hon Claire Perry MP
*Minister of State for Energy
& Clean Growth*

UK Government



Lesley Griffiths AM
*Cabinet Secretary for
Energy, Planning &
Rural Affairs*

Welsh Government