



**Gregory Barker MP**

**Minister of State**

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[www.decc.gov.uk](http://www.decc.gov.uk)

**Our ref:** MC2010/13175/REDACTED

**Your ref:** REDACTED

REDACTED REDACTED Esq MP

House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

10 January 2011

Dear REDACTED

Thank you for your letter dated 20 December, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED, about climate science.

The vast majority of climate scientists agree that climate change is happening and that warming over recent decades is mostly a result of human activities. They also agree that climate change is a major threat to global security, prosperity and equity. The sooner we act, the more potential we have to manage those threats. The Government is therefore acting now.

Regarding your constituent's concern about 'Climategate', three independent inquiries (a Select Committee Inquiry, Lord Oxburgh's science panel, and Sir Muir Russell's review) all found that there is no evidence of scientific malpractice at University of East Anglia, and that the evidence of human influence on the climate is strong. The Government response to the Science and Technology Committee's report is available at: <http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm79/7934/7934.pdf>

We judge that there is strong global evidence of a rise in the Earth's mean temperature and note that this trend is detected by three independent analyses of near-surface temperature measurements, and corroborated by evidence from instruments on satellites and weather balloons, as well as physical indicators of climate including sea-ice extent and sea level.

The Government considers that it will cost much less, in terms of human suffering as well as money, to go low carbon now than it will to allow climate change to continue unchecked. For example, the Stern Review estimated that the costs of avoiding the worst impacts of climate change will be approximately 1 to 2% of world GDP per year by 2050. However, it also found that the costs of inaction will be equivalent to losing at least 5% of *global* GDP each year. So we are working to mitigate our greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the changes that are inevitable and create a sustainable future.

Finally, there are a number of benefits of shifting to low carbon. It can reduce our dependency on finite fossil fuels, taking us towards a cleaner, quieter, more energy secure and fairer society. A transition to low carbon can also create high quality jobs in new industries and ensure we live in better insulated, more comfortable homes.

Yours ever