



**COP26
PRESIDENCY
UK 2022**
DELIVERING THE
GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
COP President
9 Downing Street
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Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
House of Commons
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Our reference: MC2022/09231

6th June 2022

Dear Karen,

Written Parliamentary Questions

Thank you for your letter of 23 May, regarding the Written Parliamentary Question performance by the COP26 Unit. I would like to reassure you that I am absolutely committed to providing MPs and Peers with high-quality, timely answers to their questions - this is an essential aspect of Parliamentary scrutiny of the Government's work.

Your letter rightly identifies that the PQ performance on COP26 matters between the period of July 2021 and December 2021 did not consistently honour the deadlines set by Parliament. As you'll appreciate, this time period was during the run up to the 2021 COP26 conference, where I was largely away on official business. However, I would like to reassure you that our performance has since significantly improved. Since 1st January 2022, of the 36 PQs that have been tabled on COP26 matters, 29 of these have been delivered to Parliament on time. This means that our overall percentage of on-time PQs rose from 44% during the time period referenced in your letter to 81% for 2022 so far (as at 30th May 2022).

I do, however, recognise that there is still more work to be done. We continue to take all steps necessary to drive up our PQ performance further to fully meet the expectations set by Parliament. In recent months the Cabinet Office Parliamentary Team has integrated COP26 Parliamentary Questions into their wider PQ processes with the express purpose of seeking to improve overall performance. In addition, the Cabinet Office delivers regular training sessions to officials to drive up the quality of drafting and to impress the importance of delivering PQs on time.

I will continue to closely monitor improvement to make sure COP26 PQ performance is of the high standard that Members and Peers rightly expect. I note the Procedure Committee's ongoing inquiry into Written Parliamentary Questions and will digest the upcoming report when it is ready.

I am copying this letter to the Leader of the House of Commons and the Leader of the House of Lords.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
COP President