



Environmental Audit Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Sent by e-mail only

23 March 2023

Dear Secretary of State –

Thank you for agreeing to appear before the Committee on 15th March to discuss the measures the Government is taking to implement the Net Zero Strategy. Thank you also for arranging for the Committee to receive responses to its report on *Accelerating the transition from fossil fuels and securing energy supplies* from the Government and the North Sea Transition Authority. We have published these responses today as a Special Report of the Committee.

The Committee was disappointed with the overall content and tone of the response, which Members considered to be dismissive: in several places the response listed Government actions irrelevant to the point being made by the Committee, and in others the issues raised in the report's conclusions and recommendations were not addressed at all.

The Committee recognises that Ministers had limited scope to comment substantively on certain matters in advance of the publication of the revised Net Zero Strategy, the Government response to the report of the Skidmore Review and announcements on related policy issues later this month. We look forward to these announcements. The Committee would like to invite you to return to discuss relevant policy updates and responses at an early opportunity, and the Clerk of the Committee will be in touch with your Department to arrange a date for an additional evidence session.

I expect you will wish to update certain elements of the Government response in light of the Committee's reaction, and in consequence of the announcements to be made next week. It would be helpful to receive a revised response not later than Thursday 20th April.

The Committee will publish this letter to accompany the initial responses to its report. I am also copying this letter to the Chairman of the Liaison Committee, in view of that Committee's general concern with the recent standard of Government responses to Committee reports.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Dunne MP
Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee