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From the Chief Strategic Advisor to the Prime Minister

21 December 2020

Dear Mr Tugendhat

Thank you for your letter of 24 November about the appointment of the Right Honourable Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP as the International Champion for Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency.

Climate change is having a major impact on countries across the world, and it is often the poorest countries that are the most vulnerable. Ms Trevelyan's role is to increase attention on the need to collectively adapt and build resilience in the face of these challenges. Her work involves engaging with foreign governments, leading experts, the private sector, and multilateral organisations, as well as representing HMG at events.

Ms Trevelyan formally reports to both the Foreign Secretary and COP-President Designate and her position sits in the FCDO. The FCDO has established a small private office to support her. This office will provide an interface with the COP unit and the wider FCDO network, including key embassies and high commissions engaging on climate change.

While Ms Trevelyan may give views on policy, decisions will be taken by relevant FCDO Ministers, in accordance with standard approval processes.

Thank you once again for writing.

Yours sincerely

SIR EDWARD LISTER

Mr Tom Tugendhat MBE MP



Foreign Affairs Committee

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From the Chair
Tom Tugendhat MP

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing St
London SW1A 2AA

24 November 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the Committee to seek further details on the appointment of Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP as International Champion for Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency.

We welcome the intention behind her appointment, to assist in the process of reaching agreement at COP26 on measures to help countries adapt to the impacts of climate change and build resilience. As part of the Committee's current inquiry into environmental diplomacy we will be scrutinising the work of the FCDO as it seeks to secure a successful outcome to COP26. In this context, and in advance of oral evidence sessions during the course of next year, it would be helpful to have answers to the following questions:

1. Can you provide more detail on the nature of her role and, in particular, on her contribution to policy formulation? Will her primary focus be in seeking to persuade governments to adopt ambitious targets or in gathering information about potential adaptations to help inform the COP26 team in the Cabinet Office?
2. In which Department will she be based; and what civil service support will she have?
3. How will she determine her priorities? What will be the nature of her relationship with the President of COP26, Alok Sharma?
4. How will she liaise with the FCDO's Climate Change and Energy Attachés Network on interactions with foreign governments? Will she have separate reporting lines to those of the FCDO?
5. Will she have a separate travel budget and complete independence over how it is used or will it be determined by another Secretary of State?
6. By what mechanisms will she be accountable to Parliament for her activities?

It would be helpful to have a response to these questions by 18 December. I intend to place your response in the public domain.

Best wishes

TOM TUGENDHAT