



# HOUSE OF LORDS

Baroness Sheehan  
Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP  
Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero  
55 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2HP

22 May 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

Further to my letter of 14 February I am writing to you regarding the appointment of a permanent Chair of the Climate Change Committee (CCC), the independent advisory body to Government on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The CCC has not had a permanent Chair since June 2023, and now also does not have a permanent CEO following Chris Stark's departure from the position in April.

The appointment of a permanent Chair is crucial to provide long-term strategic leadership for this body to help the UK Government and devolved administrations deliver our net zero target and increasingly urgent adaptation measures. The departure of the CCC's permanent CEO only serves to underscore the urgency of this issue.

Regarding delays in the appointment of a Chair, you have previously highlighted the need, under the Climate Change Act 2008, for joint agreement on the appointment between the Government and devolved administrations.<sup>1</sup> In my letter of 14 February, we urged the Government to seek constructive resolution to discussions with the devolved administrations as soon as possible.<sup>2</sup> Three months have since elapsed.

We are asking for an update on progress that is urgently needed in this area. We would be grateful if you could set out:

- a) the reason for the ongoing delay in appointing a permanent Chair, and whether it remains the same;
- b) any further update on progress in appointing a permanent Chair;

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/43370/documents/215876/default/>

<sup>2</sup> [committees.parliament.uk/publications/43474/documents/216184/default/](https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/43474/documents/216184/default/)



# HOUSE OF LORDS

- c) an update on progress in appointing a permanent CEO.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Baroness Sheehan, Chair of the Environment and Climate Change Committee