



Environmental Audit Committee

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London SW1A 2HP

Sent by email only

12 February 2025

Dear Secretary of State –

I am writing to thank you for appearing before the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) on 27 January 2025 and to follow up on a number of issues on which you undertook to write to us with further details, as well as to highlight additional points to which the committee may return in the coming months. Citations are given with reference to the relevant question numbers in the published transcript of the hearing.ⁱ

Issues for written response

UK COP29 delegation

I asked you about suggestions in the media that the UK delegation at COP29 included 20 fossil fuel lobbyists ([Q10-12](#)), as reported by Global Witness.ⁱⁱ You stated you were unaware of this. I would be grateful if you could **please set out in your response the total number of people who were part of the formal UK delegation and their designation (for example: civil servant, NGO representative, academic, business representative), as well as responding to the specific claim.**

Secondary legislation to include international aviation and shipping in carbon budgets

It was noted that, although the previous Government made the welcome decision to include international aviation and shipping emissions within the scope of the carbon budgeting process, and the current Government has continued with this convention, secondary legislation needs to be passed in order for this change to be given a formal, legal footing ([Q24-27](#)). You acknowledged this needed to happen and unequivocally committed that it would, but were unable to say when. **Please set out in your response the Government's planned timetable for bringing forward secondary legislation to this effect.**

International Climate Finance (ICF): leveraging private funding

Subsequent to a letter sent to you on the subject by himself and 32 colleagues earlier in January, Barry Gardiner asked about opportunities to maximise the impact of the £3bn of ringfenced funding for nature-based solutions within the UK's ICF contribution by leveraging private sector and philanthropic funding, citing similar examples in Germany and the US ([Q30](#)). **I would be grateful if you could please outline your views on the issues raised in that letter in your response.**

Mozambique Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project

Barry Gardiner also raised concerns that involvement in the LNG project in Mozambique risked seriously undermining the UK's international climate reputation, and sought assurances that you would have conversations with the Secretary of State for Business and Trade regarding reconsideration of the £900m of export credit slated for this. **Please outline in your reply how you intend to respond to this.**

Parliamentary scrutiny of proposals for the Seventh Carbon Budget

Both Ellie Chowns and I pressed you on the Government's plans regarding Parliamentary scrutiny of the Government's proposals for the Seventh Carbon Budget (CB7) ([Q39-48](#)). As you will be aware, our predecessor committee exchanged correspondence with the previous administration on this, resulting in a recommendation in its *Environmental audit in the 2019 Parliament* report whereby the Committee proposed a series of steps aimed at ensuring robust Parliamentary oversight of CB7.ⁱⁱⁱ This comprised several elements, including: (i) that the Government's publication of the proposed level of CB7 be accompanied by a draft plan for its delivery of emissions reductions in the CB7 period; (ii) a commitment that the Secretary of State appear before EAC to give evidence regarding the draft delivery plan; and (iii) that a debate take place on the floor of the House for no less than half a day on the motion to approve the draft Order.

While we were encouraged by your statements that "this Committee has a central role when it comes to Carbon Budget 7" ([Q39](#)) and "there should definitely be a debate in the House" ([Q47](#)), we note that you did not confirm whether the Government would produce a draft delivery plan – a part of the proposed scrutiny process that the previous Secretary of State explicitly supported.^{iv}

We also note that we are still awaiting a formal written response from your Department to the recommendation made by our predecessor committee, as referenced in the paragraph above. The exchanges at the hearing on 27 January, while helpful, do not negate the need for such a response, which is now several months overdue. **Please therefore set out in your reply your formal response to our predecessor committee's recommendation on the proposed process for Parliamentary scrutiny of CB7, including explicitly stating whether or not the Government agrees to each individual element of the proposal set out in Annex 2 to the Committee's Eighth Report of Session 2023–24.**

Issues the Committee intends to monitor

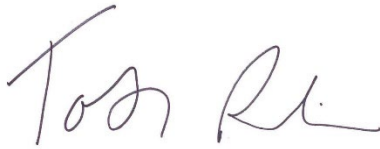
In addition to the above points, there were a number of issues arising from the evidence session which are of particular interest to the Committee that it intends to keep under review, and on which it may wish to seek additional information on in the coming months. The Committee wishes to highlight these here in the interests of transparency and accountability:

- The development of a 'Roadmap to \$1.3tn' in advance of COP30 ([Q17](#))
- Publication of the Carbon Budget Delivery Plan for Carbon Budget 6 ([Q19](#))
- The joint working between your Department and DEFRA to integrate climate and nature ([Q20](#); [Q29](#))
- The specifics of the UK's International Climate Finance contribution, to be confirmed in the Spring Spending Review ([Q28](#); [Q35](#))
- The Government's planned revision and strengthening of the Third National Adaptation Programme ([Q37-38](#))
- The integration of climate and environment considerations into departmental budgeting and business planning processes ([Q62](#))
- The sectoral 'effort shares' contributing to carbon budget delivery and how this translates to Departmental actions and accounting ([Q63](#))
- The suggested annual statement to the House on the climate and nature crises ([Q64](#); [Q67](#); [Q68](#))
- The work of the Clean Energy Mission Board, including joint working with other Mission Boards ([Q71](#))
- Consideration of water resources by the AI Energy Council ([Q76](#))

I would be grateful for a response to this letter no later than 28 February 2025. I expect the Committee will wish to publish this letter together with the response, once received.

A copy of this letter goes to the Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero Committee and the Chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Toby Perkins'.

Mr Toby Perkins MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee

ⁱ <https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/15287/pdf/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/fossil-fuel-lobbyists-eclipse-delegations-most-climate-vulnerable-nations-cop29-climate-talks/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Eighth Report of Session 2023–24,

<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/45220/documents/223817/default/>

^{iv} <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/44051/documents/218320/default/>