



House of Commons

London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
COP26 President
Cabinet Office

12 February 2021

Dear Alok,

We are pleased that the Prime Minister, in his recent reshuffle, recognised the vital importance of a successful COP26 by appointing you to the Cabinet in your capacity as COP26 President.

As you will know from your discussions with colleagues from all parties, there is significant interest across the House in the UK-Italian Presidency of COP26 and in the Government's ambitions for the Glasgow conference in November. We note with approval the arrangements for written and oral questions which have now been put in place, and we expect you will want to take every opportunity to update the House on relevant developments via oral and written statements.

Such is the importance of COP26 that each of our Committees has a current or potential inquiry or strand of work related to it. We recognise that it would be burdensome and risks duplication of effort if each Committee with an interest were to approach you, as COP26 President, and your senior advisory team to give evidence separately. Instead, we propose to pool our Committees' scrutiny arrangements in order to reduce the number of requests for you and your team to appear before Commons select committees.

What we suggest is the following:

- Our committees will agree to join together informally as the 'Committee on COP26', using the facilities for joint working set out in Standing Order No. 137A.
- Within this overall structure we will agree on a series of themed evidence sessions, to be determined with reference to the work being undertaken by each of our committees. We envisage scheduling an evidence session roughly once in each sitting month between March and December 2021. An outline proposal for a schedule is attached, beginning with a session on the machinery of government structures in place to support effective delivery of the summit.
- Each evidence session with the Committee on COP26 will be chaired by the Chair of the committee leading the particular strand of work to be covered in that session. That committee will take the lead in making the practical arrangements for the session. Each other participating committee will be able to send up to two members to participate in the session.



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- The Committee on COP26 will not make its own reports to the House. The evidence taken before each Committee may be followed up by a letter from the Chair of that session and the evidence taken will be drawn upon in reports by each participating committee as appropriate. In this way we can reduce the demand for the number of your appearances.

We hope you find these proposed arrangements acceptable, and we look forward to your response.

Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial
Strategy Committee

Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair, Science and Technology Committee

Tom Tugendhat MP
Chair, Foreign Affairs Committee

Sarah Champion MP
Chair, International Development
Committee

Rt Hon Mel Stride MP
Chair, Treasury Committee

Huw Merriman MP
Chair, Transport Committee

Pete Wishart MP
Chair, Scottish Affairs Committee

Neil Parish MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Committee

Sir Bernard Jenkin MP
Chair, Liaison Committee



ANNEX

Committee on COP26

Proposed schedule of meetings, themes and committee leads

	Committee on COP26 scrutiny (lead committee and theme)	Chamber scrutiny (Wednesday orals)*	COP26 key dates
March 2021	Environmental Audit: Machinery of government structures to deliver COP		<i>Multilateral consultation:</i> UNFCCC Article 6
<i>Easter adjournment (25 March–13 April 2021)</i>			
April 2021	Scottish Affairs: delivering a successful COP26 in Glasgow	COP26 orals 14 Apr	.
<i>Prorogation and State Opening (dates TBC)</i>			
May 2021	Foreign Affairs: Climate diplomacy and COP26	COP26 orals 26 May	.
<i>Whitsun adjournment (dates TBC)</i>			
June 2021	Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Net zero and UN climate summits (on the ambitions, delivery and performance of COP26)		.
July 2021	Treasury: COP26 and green finance	COP26 orals 7 July	.
<i>Summer adjournment (dates TBC)</i>			
September 2021	Science and Technology/ Transport: technologies for net zero and decarbonising transport		.
<i>Conference adjournment (dates TBC)</i>			Pre-COP MILAN (30 Sep-2 Oct)
October 2021	Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy: Pre-COP outcomes and COP26 prospects	COP26 orals 13 Oct	.
November 2021		COP26 orals 25 Nov	COP26 GLASGOW (1-12 Nov)
<i>November adjournment (dates TBC)</i>			
December 2021	Environmental Audit: meeting COP26 commitments and navigating the new path to net zero		

* — 5-week cycle of oral questions indicated is notional, based on a typical sitting pattern from 24 Feb