



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP
COP26 President Designate
Cabinet Office COP26 Unit

13 May 2021

Dear Alok

Preparations for COP26

On behalf of the BEIS Committee I would like to thank you for the Government's response to the Committee's interim report, *Net zero and UN climate summits: Scrutiny of Preparations for COP26*, and to seek further information on some of the issues raised in this.

We welcome the more detailed set of goals for COP26 set out in the response, as well as the Government's activities to monitor progress against the goals by tracking both commitments mandated by the Paris Agreement, and broader international commitments that will support these. In our report we recommended that the Government provide a set of criteria to measure progress against each of its COP26 goals; we would be grateful if you could share a list of the commitments which you are tracking, and provide regular updates of progress on these to the Committee.

We are also pleased to hear about the efforts the UK Government is making to collaborate with the devolved administrations on COP26, as well as your own commitment to support parliamentary scrutiny by attending regular evidence sessions with the 'Committee on COP26' group of committees in the House of Commons. Sister committees in the devolved legislatures have told us that a lack of direct access to UK Government Ministers is hindering their ability to scrutinise both COP26 and the broader climate agenda. It would be helpful to know how the UK Government plans to support COP26 scrutiny in the devolved legislatures.

The Government's reaffirmation that the health of participants and the local community is foremost in planning for COP26 is welcome, as are the plans to communicate health protection measures in an appropriately timed manner. With six months remaining until the summit, media speculation around a scaled-back or postponed COP is casting uncertainties for a wide range of parties and stakeholders. It would be helpful to understand when further information on such contingencies is likely to be available, if not the specific measures themselves. It would further be helpful to know what, if any, plans the Government has considered to ensure that international

disparities in access to covid vaccines do not prevent delegates from attending the conference in person, particularly those from climate vulnerable and developing countries.

I would be grateful if you could provide answers the above issues by 28 May. I look forward also to receiving your responses to the outstanding recommendations from the Committee's report, notably with regard to the inclusion of parliamentarians in the conference delegation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

DARREN JONES MP
CHAIR, BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY COMMITTEE