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The Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP
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Dear Darren,

Decarbonisation Readiness – Call for Evidence publication enacting our Energy White Paper commitment to review the Carbon Capture Readiness planning guidance.

I am pleased to inform you of the latest steps the Government is taking today to decarbonise the power sector to support our world-leading Carbon Budget Six target of 78% emissions reduction by 2035 relative to 1990 levels.

The Government has today published a Call for Evidence seeking views on proposals to review and expand the Carbon Capture Readiness planning guidance in line with our Energy White Paper commitment.

The 2009 Carbon Capture Readiness requirements prevent new build fossil fuel power stations sized over 300 MW from receiving planning consent unless they are likely to be able to retrofit carbon capture technology within their operational lifetime. The requirements reduce the risk of locking-in energy infrastructure which cannot be decarbonised.

In the December 2020 Energy White Paper, we committed to consulting on the removal of the 300 MW threshold, thereby applying Carbon Capture Readiness requirements to all new build fossil fuel power plants. We also committed to expanding the requirements to include low-carbon hydrogen as an alternative technology for reducing carbon emissions.

The proposed call for evidence seeks initial views and evidence from industry on the commitments. It will enable us to develop firm policy proposals for a further consultation later in the year.

I will place a copies of this letter and the Decarbonisation Readiness Call for Evidence in the Libraries of the House.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change