



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP  
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Darren Jones MP  
Chair of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy  
Select Committee  
House of Commons  
London  
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29 July 2021

Dear Darren

I am writing regarding today's publication of this year's Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES). The publication shows that energy consumption in 2020 was remarkably low as COVID-19 restrictions affected industrial output, leisure, and travel. Energy requirements for industrial use and services (e.g. shops, restaurants, offices) were both down 6 per cent on 2019. However, domestic demand was up 6 per cent as more people stayed at home. Total final consumption was down 13 per cent on last year, 11 per cent on a temperature and seasonally adjusted basis.

Renewables contributed a record 43.1 per cent of electricity generation in 2020, outpacing for the first-time annual fossil fuel generation (37.7 per cent). Put in a historical perspective, the changes are significant. In 2010, fossil fuel generation was 75.4 per cent, and this shows that the UK has been performing extremely well on the deployment of renewable electricity over the last decade.

The publication also reports on the progress against the targets established by the European Union's 2009 Renewable Energy Directive (RED). Through the RED, the EU set the UK a binding renewable energy targets for our energy consumption derived from renewable sources, covering electricity, heat and transport sectors. The UK's target was the most ambitious in relative terms out of all Member States, requiring a more than ten-time increase in the share of renewables. Whilst we have not met the overall target yet, the UK has exceeded expectations on electricity, met the sub target for transport and made progress towards the heat component. In addition to this, as you know, the UK has met or exceeded all of its Carbon Budgets for the period covered by the RED and has seen a 44 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions since 1990, compared to 28 per cent for the EU-27 over the same period.

We have set out concrete steps we will take to build back greener from the pandemic and reach net zero emissions by 2050. We have already published the Energy White Paper, Industrial Decarbonisation Strategy and our Transport Decarbonisation Plan, and ahead of COP26, we will bring forward further bold proposals, including a Net Zero Strategy, to cut emissions and create new jobs and industries across the whole country. We are also publishing a number of sector strategies this year, including the Heat and Buildings Strategy and a Hydrogen Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP**  
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth