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Dear Darren,

The Government committed to publish a Biomass Strategy in 2022, and a policy statement ahead of COP26 to provide an update on the strategy development. Biomass is a vital resource that has the potential to deliver the key technologies needed to reach net zero such as carbon capture, low carbon hydrogen production and production of bio-products.

I am writing to inform you that today we will publish our **Biomass policy statement**. In the policy statement we set out:

- priority use principles for biomass use to meet net zero in the short, medium and long term, to support the development of a priority use framework;
- the key policy aims for sustainable biomass use across the economy, such as in the electricity, heat, transport and industry sectors;
- for the first time, the Government's view of the role bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) can play in contributing to net zero and the potential routes for BECCS deployment; and
- a summary of research and innovation gaps which need to be addressed to enable biomass, bioenergy technologies, and the wider bioeconomy to deliver net zero, and ongoing and planned projects that will inform the Biomass Strategy.

BEIS officials have engaged with officials in relevant departments to ensure wider departmental views have informed the development of this policy statement, in particular Defra and DfT who have ownership of various aspects of biomass policy. As the Biomass Strategy will also touch on policies that are reserved (e.g. energy) and devolved (e.g. land use and other environmental policies), BEIS officials have conducted meetings with each of the Devolved Administrations (DAs) to provide sight of the key content of the launch and have incorporated comments from each of the DAs. We will continue to work with the DAs and other departments as we develop the policies and proposals set out in this policy statement and the strategy.

Yours sincerely,

THE RT HON GREG HANDS MP
Minister of State for Energy Clean Growth and Climate Change