



Environmental Audit Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0ET

Sent by email only

19 January 2022

Dear Secretary of State –

Green Jobs

Thank you for providing the Government's response to the Committee's report on *Green Jobs* which was published on 25 October 2021. The Committee was pleased to see further details within the response on the Green Jobs Delivery Group. We note that the work of this Group will be overseen by the two cabinet committees for climate action, alongside the wider net zero and climate work being undertaken by the Government. We were disappointed to note that the response does not directly address our recommendation for the Government to define or set out an approach to reach a definition of what is meant by 'green jobs', given a definition and metric are essential to monitoring the impact of the Government's policies in this area.

We note that the Government plans to provide "further detail on the Group's precise remit and membership as part of a full terms of reference in the new year". I should be grateful if you would indicate when the terms of reference are likely to be issued, and when the Group is likely to be convened and to start its work.

The Committee would be grateful if you would, in addition, clarify some issues around the establishment and operation of the Delivery Group which arise from the Government response. These are set out below.

1. In response to the Committee's first recommendation, the Government says it is 'taking steps to embed processes' to capture how it is 'supporting green jobs through Government schemes, and will report on this periodically'.
 - a) **Will the terms of reference for the Delivery Group provide a set of metrics, objectives or key performance indicators for the Group to work to, to enable ongoing monitoring? If not, how does the Group plan to monitor the impact of its actions and recommendations?**
 - b) **How frequently will the Delivery Group report on its work, including on any performance indicators? Will the reports be published?**

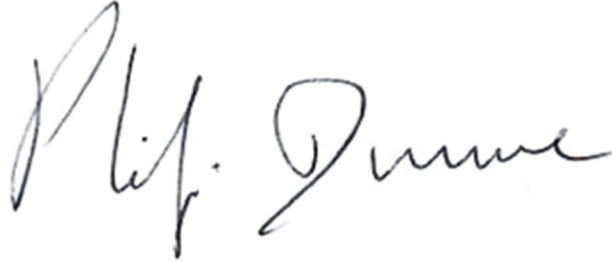
2. At the beginning of the response, the Department for Transport (DfT) is listed in the proposed membership of the Group. Later in the response that Department is not listed in the Group's membership. **Please clarify whether a DfT Minister is expected to be a standing member of the Delivery Group.**
3. We are disappointed to note that the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is not currently represented in the proposed standing membership for the Group. The Committee's report highlighted the pressing need for increased green skills and jobs in the buildings sector, where policy responsibility for net zero is shared jointly by DLUHC and BEIS. We also highlighted the importance of co-ordination with local government to ensure green jobs actions are tailored and responsive to the needs of local areas, given that the impact of the Government's climate and environmental policies will differ according to the characteristics of each local area; as the Department with responsibility for "overseeing local government" and "investing in local areas to drive growth and create jobs", it appears that DLUHC is best placed to ensure this co-ordination. **In the absence of representation from DLUHC on the Group, we would be grateful if you would set out how the Government plans to ensure effective coordination with BEIS on the green jobs and skills needed to decarbonise and meet environmental goals in the buildings sector, and with local government to ensure delivery of the Government's green jobs objectives at a local level.**
4. We are disappointed to note that HM Treasury is also not represented in the proposed standing membership. The report highlighted the need for careful coordination of funding between Departments to ensure green jobs actions, as a cross-Government endeavour, are sufficiently prioritised within each responsible department. **To enable effective co-ordination of funding across Departments, we consider that it is essential that a Treasury Minister be included as a standing member of the Delivery Group.**
5. We note that the Group is expected to have substantial non-ministerial membership, in the form of 'representatives from industry, the skills sector and other key stakeholders'. **Please indicate:**
 - a) **the number of representatives from industry, the skills sector and other stakeholders expected to be appointed;**
 - b) **how these representatives are to be nominated; and**
 - c) **how the industry representative co-chair is to be identified.**

We would be pleased to invite representatives of the Delivery Group to appear before the Committee in due course to discuss its work in this important area.

The Committee plans to publish this letter on Thursday 20 January, together with the Government response to its report. It would be helpful if you would arrange to respond by 3 February. I expect the Committee will wish to publish the response.

I am copying this letter to the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Work and Pensions, Education, Transport, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to the Chairs of their respective select committees.

Yours sincerely,

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

Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP
Chairman of the Environmental Audit Committee