



**Department for
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4 March 2022

Dear Baroness Parminter,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 February 2022 regarding the development of key indicators set out in the Net Zero Strategy. I'm happy to address the points you make on public reporting on our progress towards meeting net zero.

In the Net Zero Strategy the Government committed to provide a public update every year (starting this year) on progress against the delivery pathway to net zero.

In paragraph 30 of the 'Embedding Net Zero in Government' chapter, the Government set out a clear set of 24 indicators against which the UK's effort to achieve net zero can be publicly measured. The 24 indicators identified for the Net Zero Strategy were agreed across Government – as were all the measures set out in that Strategy.

As well as an update on these 24 indicators the progress report will include:

- An update on progress against the targets and ambitions set out in the Strategy
- Commentary on contextual changes that might affect the exact pathway to meeting decarbonisation commitments
- A summary of key areas of progress made against this pathway and the policies and proposals in the strategy

Taken together, this represents an important step towards the Net Zero Strategy's goal towards inviting scrutiny and clearly communicating the UK's progress towards net zero.

The Government is considering whether there are additional indicators, beyond those described above, that would be helpful to track progress against – either in this year's update or beyond. We are in dialogue with the CCC on this – and will consider what lessons can be drawn from the approach that other countries have taken.

It is important to note that the Net Zero Strategy's commitments build on well-established ways in which the UK already publicly reports on its progress towards net zero.

In line with international reporting requirements, each year the Government comprehensively reports the UK's historic emissions since 1990 and separately publishes projections of future emissions.

We comply with UNFCCC emissions reporting obligations via annual submission of the UK Greenhouse Gas Inventory, in the form of the National Inventory Report.

Emissions are estimated following the guidance set out by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in line with UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories. The UK's 'Energy and Emissions Projections' is a world-leading approach to projecting the UK's annual emissions, by sector, according to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) guidelines.

In relation to your point on cross-government governance mechanisms. The approach the Government takes to this was within the scope of the National Audit Office's study which assessed the Government's structure and approach to achieving our net zero target, culminating in the publicly available *Achieving Net Zero* report, published in December 2020. We continue to engage the NAO as we look to evolve and strengthen our governance, taking into account their recommendations.

The BEIS Permanent Secretary and BEIS Directors-General have also attended Public Accounts Committee hearings to answer the Committee's questions regarding the Government's approach to delivering net zero, which covered governance and reporting.

The Director-General group is chaired by the BEIS Director General for Net Zero Strategy and International and brings together officials from across Government, creating a whole system perspective to support the delivery of significant climate announcements, including those contained in the Net Zero Strategy.

BEIS's work on governance progressed significantly between the January and October (2021) PAC hearings, including bolstering its own internal governance arrangements through the set-up of the Net Zero Delivery Board and Net Zero Strategy Board.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kwasi Kwarteng', written in a cursive style.

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy