

Mr Tim Crosland
Plan B
62 Sutherland Square
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7 August 2017

Committee on Climate Change advice about the implications of the Paris Agreement

Dear Mr Crosland,

Thank you for your further letter of 19 May. In Lord Deben's absence I am replying. I am sorry for the delay.

As stated in Lord Deben's letter of 2 May, the Committee takes its legal duties very seriously.

We recognise that the Paris Agreement describes a higher level of ambition than the one that formed the basis of the UK's existing legislated emission reduction targets.

We also agree with the Government's intention to set a new target in future that reflects the global need to reach net zero emissions. Our advice, however, has been not to set new UK emissions targets now. The Committee does not believe it had the evidence to set such a target now.

Quoting from the Committee's October 2016 report, for such a new target to be credible, "it needs to be evidence-based, accompanied by strong policies to deliver existing targets and a strategy to develop greenhouse gas removals".

We do, however, recommend UK measures to reduce emissions are pursued vigorously and that such measures will then maintain the flexibility to go further in future (i.e. to go further than the existing targets).

This is consistent with the Paris Agreement which recognises that current pledges do not add up to a credible pathway to achieve 2°C, or more ambitious aims, but which creates a "ratchet" mechanism to encourage greater action over time.

The Committee will return to this issue, and further consider, as the evidence develops, its advice on whether and when to set new long-term targets. Your views are helpful in that regard.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Gault, Acting Chief Executive