

Mr. Tim Crosland
Plan B

2nd May 2017

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

Dear Mr Crosland,

Thank you for your letter of 18 April 2017. The letter raised the issue of the advice that the Committee on Climate Change provided to the Government about the UK's 2050 greenhouse gas emission reduction target.

The Committee takes its legal duties very seriously. Its deliberations and advice are governed by those duties.

Your letter reflects some, but not all, the reasoning provided in our report. In particular, the quotes that you pick out on pages 32 and 48 exclude the explanation for the Committee's conclusion: "Further evidence is needed on..." (p. 48). This summary is expanded upon in Section 2 of that chapter. Our reasons are firmly grounded in the criteria set out in the Act.

You are right to note that the Committee also took the opportunity in writing a report to Government to set out the importance of action now - regardless of its conclusions about 2050 ambition - and the importance of starting work in new areas in light of the need to shift to net zero (e.g. to work on greenhouse gas removal technologies, something the government has now started).

I welcome you setting out the seven principles that you regard as the most important. If you have further analysis about how those principles link to the duties under the Act I would welcome that. Further, you begin your letter by saying that the Committee's recommendations are likely to have "catastrophic consequences for the people of the UK and the rest of the world." If you have further evidence for that link I would very much welcome it.

Sincerely,



Lord Deben, Chairman, Committee on Climate Change