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Weekly Public Affairs Report: Friday 5th July 2019

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Written Answers – Monday 1st July

Biofuels

Alex Cunningham: [268485]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of potential UK capacity to supply bioenergy that can generate negative emissions through bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS).

Chris Skidmore:

The Government believes that carbon capture, usage & storage (CCUS) has a potentially important role to play in meeting the UK's climate targets and supporting our Industrial Strategy. CCUS can add value to the economy and help tackle hard to decarbonise sectors.

We recognise that bioenergy with carbon capture and storage could be a key technology in helping us achieve net zero through generation of negative emissions. However, availability of sustainable biomass is finite and as such we need to decide how to best deploy this resource in our efforts to decarbonise across the economy.

Carbon Capture and Storage

Alex Cunningham: [268483]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what

assessment his Department has made of the role that carbon capture and storage technology could play in reducing emissions in the (a) heavy industry, (b) transport, (c) power and (d) heating sectors.

Chris Skidmore:

The Government is committed to supporting the development of carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS) in the UK. CCUS has the potential to support us in meeting our 2050 emissions target and support our Industrial Strategy.

Our CCUS Action Plan, published in November 2018, sets out our view that CCUS has a potentially essential role in supporting the decarbonisation of the UK's economy, reducing emissions from the heavy industry, transport, power and heating sectors.

On 27 June we announced that nine companies have secured £26 million of government funding, in addition to industry backing, to advance the rollout of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in the UK - a crucial step towards the UK's net zero emissions and the end of the UK's contribution to global warming. It is the next milestone for the Government's ambition for the UK to be a world-leader in the field as laid out in the Clean Growth Strategy and the CCUS Action Plan.

One company, Tata Chemicals is being awarded £4.2m toward the construction of a facility to capture and utilise 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year – the equivalent of 22,000 cars. When fully operational in 2021 it will be the largest carbon capture plant in the UK, removing 100 times more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than the country's current largest facility.

Our Clean Growth Grand Challenge Mission sets an ambition to establish at least one low-carbon industrial cluster by 2030, and the world's first net-zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040. The Mission is technology neutral but is focussed on technologies that can be delivered cost-effectively through the use of shared networks, and CCUS is one of the key technologies that could help to deliver the mission.

Also supporting the mission, the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund is a £315m fund aimed at helping industry to transition to a low-carbon future. The fund will help companies cut their energy bills and carbon emissions through investing in energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies. This could

include supporting technologies that are strategically important to long-term emissions reductions such as CCUS and Hydrogen.

Alex Cunningham: [268484]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the role carbon capture and storage technology can play in decarbonising the transport sector.

Chris Skidmore:

The Government believes that carbon capture, usage & storage (CCUS) has a potentially important role to play in meeting the UK's climate targets and supporting our Industrial Strategy. CCUS can add value to the economy and help tackle hard to decarbonise sectors.

This includes supporting the decarbonisation of the transport sector, including through enabling the production of low carbon electricity or hydrogen, which could power zero emission vehicles.

On 27 June we announced that nine companies have secured £26 million of government funding, in addition to industry backing, to advance the rollout of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in the UK - a crucial step towards the UK's net zero emissions and the end of the UK's contribution to global warming. It is the next milestone for the Government's ambition for the UK to be a world-leader in the field as laid out in the Clean Growth Strategy and the CCUS Action Plan.

One company, Tata Chemicals is being awarded £4.2m toward the construction of a facility to capture and utilise 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year – the equivalent of 22,000 cars.

Alex Cunningham: [268558]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of supporting the export of carbon capture, usage and storage technologies.

Chris Skidmore:

The Government's CCUS Action Plan sets out that we see an opportunity for the UK to become a world-leader in carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS) technologies, building on our strong domestic supply chain and established skills base.

In order to support this, we are investing in over £50 million in CCUS innovation programmes, supporting innovative technologies across the UK between 2017 and 2021.

On 27 June we announced that nine companies have secured £26 million of government funding, in addition to industry backing, to advance the rollout of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in the UK - a crucial step towards the UK's net zero emissions and the end of the UK's contribution to global warming. It is the next milestone for the Government's ambition for the UK to be a world-leader in the field as laid out in the Clean Growth Strategy and the CCUS Action Plan

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We also recognise the significant potential opportunities from exporting CCUS technologies as part of realising this ambition, supporting the retention and creation of high-value jobs, creating inward investment opportunities and helping to support CCUS exports which could be worth multiple billions of pounds per year to the UK economy in the future.

In order to maximise the export opportunities, we are working closely with the Department for International Trade to map UK capabilities and identify international opportunities in order to support UK-based companies with CCUS expertise, services and products

Alan Brown: [268617]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the implications for his policies of the Committee on Climate Change conclusion that carbon capture and storage will be needed to fulfil UK climate change targets.

Chris Skidmore:

On 27 June a new, legally binding, target to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 came into force. This will require ambitious action across the economy building on our Clean Growth Strategy, and carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) is likely to play a vital role

Our CCUS Action Plan sets out that we will move to deploying CCUS in the 2020s, working in partnership with industry to achieve this. To support this, on 27 June we announced that nine companies have secured £26 million of government funding, in addition to industry backing, to advance the rollout of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in the UK - a crucial step towards the UK's net zero emissions and the end of the UK's contribution to global warming. It is the next milestone for the Government's ambition for the UK to be a world-leader in the field as laid out in the Clean Growth Strategy and the CCUS Action Plan

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We will also shortly be consulting on CCUS business models and the re-use of existing infrastructure assets to support CCUS projects as an important first step to supporting deployment of CCUS in the UK.

Drew Hendry: [268627]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether the Government will adopt the target in the Committee on Climate Change 2018 Progress report to Parliament of achieving 10 MtCO₂ in carbon capture and undersea storage per annum by 2030.

Chris Skidmore:

On 27 June, a new, legally binding, target to reach net zero greenhouse gas

emissions by 2050 came into force. This will require ambitious action across the economy building on our Clean Growth Strategy, and carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS) is likely to play a vital role.

Our CCUS Action Plan sets out that we will move to deploying CCUS in the 2020s, working in partnership with industry to achieve this. We will shortly be consulting on CCUS business models and the re-use of existing infrastructure assets to support CCUS projects as an important first step to supporting deployment of CCUS in the UK.

Carbon Emissions: Departmental Coordination

Antoinette Sandbach: [268602]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of establishing a cross-departmental committee to implement the transition to a net zero economy.

Chris Skidmore:

Climate change is one of the most urgent and pressing challenges we face today, and tackling it is a cross-government priority.

The Clean Growth Inter-Ministerial Group, which brings together ministers from across government, is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Clean Growth Strategy and driving ambitious clean growth, decarbonisation and wider environmental policies.

Climate Change

Antoinette Sandbach: [268601]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to ensure a coordinated response across Government on tackling climate change.

Chris Skidmore:

Climate change is one of the most urgent and pressing challenges we face today, and tackling it is a cross-government priority.

The Clean Growth Inter-Ministerial Group, which brings together ministers from across government, is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Clean Growth Strategy and driving ambitious clean growth, decarbonisation and wider environmental policies.

Climate Change Convention: USA

Laura Smith: [268494]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he took to raise concerns on USA withdrawing from the Paris Climate Agreement during President Trump's recent visit.

Chris Skidmore:

While my rt. hon. Friend the Secretary of State did not meet with President Trump during the US state visit, the Secretary of State has stressed in discussions with US counterparts that the UK would prefer the US to remain in the Paris Agreement. During the visit, the Prime Minister raised the issue of climate change with President Trump directly and underlined the UK's support for the Paris Agreement.

Climate Change: Commonwealth

Laura Smith: [268493]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he has taken to encourage members of the Commonwealth to share the same goals in tackling anthropogenic climate change and global warming.

Chris Skidmore:

Climate change has long been of concern to the Commonwealth and the majority of member states continue to advocate for ambitious action on climate change today. Small and vulnerable states – which account for almost 60% of the Commonwealth – face an existential threat from climate change and associated natural disasters.

This concern has been reflected in Commonwealth statements as early as the Langkawi Declaration on the Environment in 1989. Under UK chairmanship at the 2018 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, leaders reaffirmed their commitments under the Paris Agreement. We would expect the Commonwealth to play a major role in ensuring that a UK-hosted COP26 would be a success.

The Government is now using its diplomatic network to support mitigation and adaptation across the Commonwealth. For example:

- In Asia, Malaysia has confirmed its interest in partnering with the UK to develop an emissions calculator. The calculator is an open source energy and emissions tool developed by the UK to allow countries to explore and develop strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- In Africa, the UK has provided £500,000 to support the Commonwealth's Climate Finance Access Hub based in Mauritius. The Hub will help small and vulnerable countries access international sources of finance to support adaptation and mitigation.
- In the Caribbean, the UK is helping four countries – Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and St Lucia – to prepare detailed disaster risk profiles to aid efforts to increase their resilience to natural disaster. This work builds on existing support from the World Bank and is expected to be extended across the region over the next year.
- In the Pacific, the UK has pledged £1.2 million to support the establishment in Fiji of a Regional Nationally Determined Contribution Hub. The centre has been established in partnership with Australia, Germany and New Zealand, to help Pacific Island Countries implement national climate change policies and frameworks in response to the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Air Pollution

Mr Barry Sheerman: [268387]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many people in England are living in an area with an illegal level of air pollution.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The UK meets legal limits for concentrations of all air pollutants, with the exception of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Calculating peoples' annual NO₂ exposure is not straightforward, because an individual's exposure varies as they move about their daily life. The Government therefore does not hold estimates of the number of people exposed to NO₂ levels above legal limits.

The vast majority of exceedances of the NO₂ limits occur at roadside locations within ten metres of the kerb. We are working with a number of local authorities to reduce roadside NO₂ concentrations, and our latest modelling indicates that 9% of the road links assessed exceeded NO₂ limits.

Dr Sarah Wollaston: [269048]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure co-operation with the EU on tackling air pollution after the UK leaves the EU.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The UK remains a signatory to the 1979 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and will continue to be at the forefront of international action and cooperation to tackle transboundary air pollution alongside the EU.

Dr Sarah Wollaston: [269049]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to promote cross-departmental collaboration on adopting World Health Organisation standards for fine particulate matter.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Clean Air Strategy sets out our commitments to take bold action across all parts of Government to achieve reductions in air pollution. We are committed to the setting of an ambitious long term target to reduce population exposure to PM_{2.5}. Defra continues to work closely with other Government departments and agencies to deliver the Strategy.

Climate Change

Caroline Lucas: [268449]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the UK is taking steps with the Government of China to promote natural climate solutions at the UN's Climate and Biodiversity Summits in 2020, and if he will make a statement.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Yes. The Government is a world leader in calling for nature based solutions to be recognised as critical in addressing climate action. I met the Environment Minister for China at the G20 to discuss this and The Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties to be held in China next year.

The UN Climate Action Summit this September provides a more immediate opportunity to deliver ambitious initiatives that tackle both climate change and biodiversity loss. The UK is co-leading the Resilience and Adaptation theme for the Summit and is actively engaging with other partners who are leading and developing the other themes. This includes China, who is co-leading the Nature Based Solutions theme for the Summit.

Laura Smith: [268492]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to tackle anthropogenic climate change and global warming.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The government introduced legislation for a new net-zero emissions target for 2050, which was passed by Parliament last month.

Defra works closely with the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the natural resources sector, including agriculture, forestry, land-use, waste and resources, and fluorinated gases, as set out in the Clean Growth Strategy.

The UK was the first country in the EU to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which will through reducing the use of hydrofluorocarbon greenhouse gases lead to a reduction of emissions by 85% by 2036.

We support nature-based solutions through our international aid programmes on forestry and mangroves/blue forests that act as effective carbon sinks as well as provide for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

We will publish the England Peat Strategy to protect existing carbon stores and as part of this we are establishing a Lowland Agricultural Peat Taskforce to develop a more sustainable future for agriculture on lowland peatland in England. Following on from our Resources and Waste Strategy, we are consulting on food waste collection schemes which will divert food waste from landfill.

As the cornerstone of new agricultural policy, the new Environmental Land Management Scheme will pay public money for the provision of environmental public goods, such as the mitigation of and adaption to climate change. This year, we will start developing a new emissions reduction plan for agriculture, in which we will set out our long-term vision for a more productive, low-carbon farming sector.

The action we are taking will continue our tradition in climate leadership.

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-01.pdf>

Written Questions – Monday 1st July

21N Mr Jim Cunningham (Coventry South):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps the Government is taking to tackle emissions from aviation. [Transferred] (270256)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190701.pdf>

Written Questions – Tuesday 2nd July

95 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to incentivise the take-up of electric vehicles in areas with high levels of pollution. (271500)

96 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent estimate he has made of the (a) number and (b) proportion of vehicles that are electric in each (i) region and (ii) nation of the UK. (271501)

20N Mr Jim Cunningham (Coventry South):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effect of poor air quality on the level of demand on the NHS. (271359)

21N Mr Jim Cunningham (Coventry South):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the effect on the NHS of rising temperatures as a result of climate change. (271361)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/nq190702.pdf>

Written Answers – Tuesday 2nd July

Climate Change

Caroline Lucas: [268450]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to pursue and implement nature-based solutions domestically to (a) mitigate and (b) adapt to climate change and (c) protect and restore nature; and if he will make a statement.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Nature-based solutions are key to tackling and strengthening resilience to climate change impacts. Our wetlands, forests and grasslands capture carbon – and provide other environmental benefits, such as flood management, pollination, and biodiversity. The Government is deploying such solutions to improve our natural environment and our Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out key policies on how improving nature can help tackle climate change.

Tree planting is one of the main contributors to nature-based carbon sequestration. Our manifesto committed to planting 11 million trees by 2022, and a further 1 million trees in our towns and cities. We also have a long term aspiration to increase woodland cover in England from 10% to 12% by 2060. To achieve these goals, in the Autumn Budget the Chancellor announced £10m for an Urban Trees Challenge Fund – which is now open for applications - and £50m to help plant new woodlands through the Woodland Carbon Guarantee.

Peatlands are our largest terrestrial carbon store. Organic or peat soils make up 11% of England's total land area, over 70% of which are drained or in poor condition. We have committed to publishing an England Peatland Strategy. The strategy sets out our vision to reverse decline in peatlands and restore them. Work is underway on four large-scale peatland restoration projects across England, to which we have allocated £10m, and will restore 5,851 ha of degraded peatlands. We are also improving saltmarshes.

Natural England has an ongoing uplands programme with landowners and we will also be setting up a Lowland Agricultural Peatland Taskforce to help sustainably manage and restore peatland habitats. Once restored, our healthy functioning peatlands will provide a range of public benefits in addition to carbon storage, including flood mitigation and biodiversity rich habitats.

Under the new Environmental Land Management Scheme we will pay public money for the provision of environmental public goods. These public goods will include the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

We also support nature-based solutions through our international aid programmes on forestry and mangroves/blue forests.

Jo Stevens: [270427]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will make an assessment of the effect of a four degree rise in global temperatures on (a) the UK's security, (b) the UK's economy, (c) global security and (d) the global economy.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Fifth Assessment Report states with high confidence that a four degree rise in global temperatures would have severe and widespread impacts on unique and threatened systems, cause substantial species extinction, pose large risks to global and regional food security, and the combination of high temperature and humidity would compromise normal human activities.

The Government prepares a UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) every five years, followed by a National Adaptation Programme, which sets out actions to address the risks identified in the CCRA.

The second CCRA was published in 2017.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr Jim Cunningham: [270256]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps the Government is taking to tackle emissions from aviation.

Michael Ellis:

The Government recognises that climate change is one of the most urgent and pressing challenges we face and we are working to ensure the UK takes a leading role in tackling it.

On 12 June 2019, the Government announced a 2050 net zero greenhouse gas emissions target for the UK. This announcement shows the UK's steadfast

commitment to tackling climate change and we recognise that aviation has a crucial part to play.

The UK will continue to lead the way to secure a solution which reflects the truly international nature of these sectors. It is vital that we find an answer that does not simply displace emissions elsewhere across the world. We will continue to provide for international aviation and shipping emissions as we do now via headroom within our existing carbon budgets. We are minded to include these targets in legislation subject to future discussions in the International Maritime Organization and International Civil Aviation Organization.

The Government will propose a long-term vision for UK aviation carbon emissions reduction and a pathway to achieve this by 2050 in its Aviation 2050 white paper due to be published later this year.

<https://qndailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qndailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-02.pdf>

Written Questions – Wednesday 3rd July

9 Giles Watling (Clacton):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will (a) review and (b) increase the 6GW capacity cap in the Contracts for Difference auctions to support the target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. (272288)

10 Giles Watling (Clacton):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the finding of the Committee on Climate Change that the UK will require up to 75GW by 2050, if he will review the 30GW by 2030 target for offshore wind. (272289)

41 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department has taken to provide support for the purchase of electric vehicles to meet the targets set out in the Government's Net Zero Road Strategy. (272193)

Written Answers – Wednesday 3rd July

Business: Carbon Emissions

Dr David Drew: [270247]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 26 June 2019 to Question 266628 on Business: Carbon Emissions, if will he publish the names of the (a) businesses and (b) business organisations that have set targets to achieve net zero by (a) 2030 and (b) a date earlier than 2050.

Chris Skidmore:

The Department does not maintain a central record of businesses and business organisations that have set targets to achieve net zero. The business community will have an important role to play in meeting our net zero target, and we welcome commitments from businesses to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

We are engaging closely with businesses – including as part of our second ‘Green GB & NI Week’, which will be launched on 4 th November. This will be a week of events and activity where government, businesses, academia and civil society will come together to explore how clean growth will change our futures and how we can contribute to action on climate change. This builds on last year’s successful campaign, which saw over 100 events held across the country, and more than 60 businesses making significant pledges worth millions to cut emissions while continuing to grow the green economy.

More information on Green GB & NI week 2019, what happened during Green GB & NI week 2018 and how different groups can get involved, can be found on the website: <https://greengb.campaign.gov.uk/>

Carbon Capture and Storage

Giles Watling: [269797]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the adequacy of investment in carbon capture usage and storage to help reach the Government's net zero by 2050.

Chris Skidmore:

On 27 June, a new, legally binding, target to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 came into force. This will require ambitious action across the economy building on our Clean Growth Strategy, and carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) is likely to play a vital role. Our CCUS Action Plan sets out that we will move to deploying CCUS in the 2020s, working in partnership with industry to achieve this.

We are investing over £50 million in CCUS innovation programmes, supporting innovative technologies across the UK between 2017 and 2021. As part of this investment we announced on 27 June that nine companies have secured £26 million of government funding, in addition to industry backing, to advance the rollout of carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) in the UK - a crucial step towards the UK's net zero emissions and the end of the UK's contribution to global warming. It is the next milestone for the Government's ambition for the UK to be a world-leader in the field as laid out in the Clean Growth Strategy and the CCUS Action Plan.

One company, Tata Chemicals is being awarded £4.2m toward the construction of a facility to capture and utilise 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year – the equivalent of 22,000 cars. When fully operational in 2021 it will be the largest carbon capture plant in the UK, removing 100 times more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than the country's current largest facility.

Our Clean Growth Grand Challenge Mission sets an ambition to establish at least one low-carbon industrial cluster by 2030, and the world's first net-zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040. The Mission is technology neutral but is focussed on technologies that can be delivered cost-effectively through the use of shared networks, and CCUS is one of the key technologies that could help to deliver the mission. The mission is backed by £170 million public investment through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund.

Also supporting the mission, the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund is a £315 million fund aimed at helping industry to transition to a low-carbon future. The

fund will help companies cut their energy bills and carbon emissions through investing in energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies. This could include supporting technologies that are strategically important to long-term emissions reductions such as CCUS and Hydrogen.

Climate Change

Dr David Drew: [270243]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will list the organisations from the (a) medical sector and (b) scientific community that have contacted his Department calling for a net zero target (i) by 2030 and (ii) by any other date earlier than 2050.

Chris Skidmore:

I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 18th June to Question 262226 and on 25th June to Question 266627.

Dr David Drew: [270244]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to his Answer of 25 June 2019 to Question 266626 on Climate Change, whether any of those councils have set a target of net zero by (a) 2030 and (b) any other date earlier than 2050.

Chris Skidmore:

The Department does not maintain a central record of councils that have set a target of net zero by these dates.

The Government welcomes the actions of Local Authorities to tackle climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally. We have always been clear that to achieve our climate targets it will take significant ambition at all levels.

Dr David Drew: [270245]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps (a) he is taking and (b) proposes to take to ensure that energy

efficiency in buildings is adequate to ensure that the target of net zero by 2050 is met.

Chris Skidmore:

The UK has a good track record in energy efficiency. In the latest International Energy Efficiency Scorecard[1], the UK is ranked 4th in the world and scores very highly on buildings. Since 1990 we have improved the energy efficiency of non-domestic buildings, including public sector buildings, with respective emissions 18 per cent[2] and 40 per cent[3] lower in 2015.

Building energy efficiency policy forms a key part of our Clean Growth Strategy where we have set ambitious targets for non-domestic buildings:

- Non-domestic buildings are targeted as part of our commitment to reduce business energy use by 20% by 2030. Various schemes are in place for businesses to improve their energy use such as the Energy Savings Opportunity Scheme (ESOS), and the Boosting Access for SMEs to Energy Efficiency (BASEE) and the Non-Domestic Smart Energy Management innovation competitions.
- We already have regulations in place that set minimum energy performance standards for buildings in the private rented sector. A building is required to have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band E or better before being let. We are working to further tighten the minimum standards to deliver additional energy and carbon savings in the non-domestic sector.
- We will look to take similar steps across the non-domestic owner occupier and new build stock. As part of that process, my Department is working with MHCLG to identify opportunities for driving further energy efficiency improvements in new and existing buildings through a consultation on Part L of the Building Regulations this year.
- Following the launch of the Buildings Mission, we have commissioned research to understand how to halve the energy use of new buildings by 2030 and to halve the cost of retrofitting existing buildings to the same standard in the same timeframe.
- By 2025 the government will introduce a Future Homes Standard for new build homes to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and world leading levels of energy efficiency, to create healthy homes that are fit for the future, have low energy bills, and are better for the environment. We will provide

additional details of the planned introduction of the Future Homes Standard within the 2019 consultation on the energy efficiency standards of the Building Regulations.

- We have committed to introduce a new scheme to help small businesses to improve the way they use energy and help them save money on their bills and reduce carbon emissions.
- In response to a recommendation from the Green Finance Taskforce, we are working with partners to determine the steps necessary for landlords and businesses to understand and, potentially disclose operational energy use. This will not only help businesses reduce their energy use in the existing stock but will also be a key enabler in delivering the Buildings Mission.
- We're supporting a range of energy measures in public buildings through the Public Sector Energy Efficiency Loan Scheme. This funding, managed by Salix Finance, has delivered over 17,000 projects to date, improving energy performance in a range of buildings including schools and hospitals.

Progress will be kept under review to ensure we achieve net zero by 2050 and consider what further action will be required across sectors to deliver this.

[1] ACEE, 'The 2018 International Energy Efficiency Scorecard', 2018
<https://aceee.org/research-report/i1801>

[2] BEIS (2017) Final UK greenhouse gas emissions national statistics: 1990-2015
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissionsnational-statistics-1990-2015>

[3] Compared to 2015 levels. Sustainable Development Unit (2016)
Sustainable
Development in Health and Care Report – Health Check 2016
<https://www.sduhealth.org.uk/policy-strategy/reporting/sustainable-development-inhealth-and-care-report-2016.aspx>

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-03.pdf>

Written Questions – Thursday 4th July

5 Gareth Thomas (Harrow West):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on taking steps to adopt the International Maritime Organization's interim goal of reducing shipping's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 per cent by 2050.
[Transferred] (272124)

70 Andy McDonald (Middlesbrough):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, for what reasons his Department ceased to use a multiplier of 1.9 for the radiative forcing or non-CO2 effects of air travel in 2011 for Departmental passenger demand and CO2 forecasts; and if he will make a statement. (272852)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/nog190704.pdf>

Written Answers – Thursday 4th July

Air Pollution: Health Hazards

Mr Jim Cunningham: [271359]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effect of poor air quality on the level of demand on the NHS.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Secretary of State has regular meetings with his counterpart at the Department for Health and Social Care and they discuss air pollution and public health most weeks.

Climate Change: Health Hazards

Mr Jim Cunningham: [271361]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care on the effect on the NHS of rising temperatures as a result of climate change.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Tackling climate change is a cross-Government priority and is one of a range of issues the Secretary of State discusses with Cabinet colleagues. Defra works closely with the Department for Health and Social Care and other Government Departments and partner organisations to address domestic climate risks, including risks of overheating from high temperatures (one of the six priority risk areas identified in the Government's second Climate Change Risk Assessment, published in 2017).

Aviation: Wokingham

John Redwood: [270234]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to limit aircraft noise over Wokingham constituency.

Michael Ellis:

The Government recognises that aviation noise is a key concern for communities that aircraft fly over, including areas such as Wokingham. As part of its forthcoming Aviation Strategy, the Government has put forward a number of proposals designed to incentivise the aviation industry to successfully modernise airspace. The benefits of airspace modernisation are well known. For example, it should allow aircraft to climb more quickly than they can at present, and descend continuously, both of which will have a noticeable noise reduction benefit for overflowed communities.

The Government has also taken forward proposals for additional ways of representing communities' exposure to noise and requirements for optional analysis and consultation that will ensure communities are more engaged in the future decisions around airspace that affect them.

London Heathrow Airport is developing its proposal for the Compton departure route, the operation of which affects communities near Wokingham. We expect that London Heathrow Airport will consult on its proposals next year, and this will provide an opportunity for communities to influence the final design for this departure route.

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-04.pdf>

Written Answers – Friday 5th July

N/A

What's On 8th July - 12th July

Mon 8th July

4.00 pm

Public Accounts - Oral Evidence Session

The effectiveness of Official Development Assistance spending

Matthew Rycroft CBE, Permanent Secretary, Department for International Development

Jean Christophe-Gray, Director of Public Services, HM Treasury

Sir Simon McDonald, Permanent Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Harriet Wallace, Director for International Science and Innovation, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Location: Room 16, Palace of Westminster

Tues 9th July

10.00 am

Treasury - Oral Evidence Session

IT failures in the financial services sector

Simon Chard, Financial Services Partner, PwC

Sarah Isted, Financial Services Risk and Regulation, PwC

Marcus Scott, Chief Operating Officer, TheCityUK

Location: Room 15, Palace of Westminster

10.15 am

Environmental Audit - Oral Evidence Session

Invasive species

Lord Gardiner, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity

Professor Nicola Spence, Chief Plant Health Officer, Defra

Dr Niall Moore, Chief Non-Native Species Officer, Defra

Location: Room 6, Palace of Westminster

Weds 10th July

9.15 am

Treasury - Oral Evidence Session

Impact of Business Rates on Business

Melissa Tatton, Chief Executive Officer, Valuation Office Agency

Alan Colston, Chief Valuer, Valuation Office Agency

Jesse Norman, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, HM Treasury

Rishi Sunak, Minister for Local Government, Ministry of Housing,
Communities and Local Government
Mike Williams, Director Business and International Tax, HM Treasury

Location: The Wilson Room, Portcullis House

1.45 pm

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Oral Evidence Session

Rural broadband and digital only services

Lindsey Fussell, Group Director Consumer and External Relations, Ofcom
Katie Pettifer, Public Policy Director, Ofcom
Margot James, Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries, Department
for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Lord Gardiner of Kimble, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural
Affairs and Biosecurity, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Location: The Grimond Room, Portcullis House

2.30 pm

Public Accounts - Oral Evidence Session

English language tests for overseas students

Sir Philip Rutnam, Permanent Secretary, Home Office
Shona Dunn, Second Permanent Secretary, Home Office
Mark Thomson, Director General UK Visas and Immigration, Home Office

Location: Room 8, Palace of Westminster

Thurs 11th July

N/A

Fri 12th July

N/A