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Weekly Public Affairs Report: Friday 12th July 2019

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Written Answers – Monday 8th July

N/A

Written Questions – Monday 8th July

10 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential for (a) tree-planting and reforestation and (b) the prevention of deforestation to help the UK meet its goal of net zero emissions by 2050. (273789)

11 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the findings of The global tree restoration potential report published in Science on 5 July 2019 that there are 1.7 billion hectares of treeless land on which 1.2 trillion native tree saplings would naturally grow, providing immense potential for tree-planting as a cheap and effective strategy to tackle climate change; and if he will make a statement. (273790)

13 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to report entitled, Upstream: Microplastics in UK Rivers, published by Greenpeace UK on 18 June 2019, what assessment he has made of the level plastic pollution in UK rivers; and if he will make a statement. (273795)

21 Andy McDonald (Middlesbrough):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if it is his policy that the rail (a) network and (b) supply chain will be net carbon neutral by 2050. (273803)

6N Clive Lewis (Norwich South):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to facilitate crossgovernmental co-operation on tackling climate change. [Transferred] (911859)

7N Matthew Pennycook (Greenwich and Woolwich):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to facilitate cross-governmental co-operation on tackling climate change. [Transferred] (911856)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190708.pdf>

Written Questions – Tuesday 9th July

3N Paul Blomfield (Sheffield Central):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to facilitate cross-governmental co-operation on tackling climate change. [Transferred] (911861)

5 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment the Government has made of the effect of Ofgem's Sector Specific Methodology on the ability of energy networks to deliver (a) net zero emissions and (b) the Government's policies set out in the (i) Industrial Strategy and (ii) Clean Growth Strategy. (274578)

6 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to ensure that Ofgem's Sector Specific Methodology enables energy networks to deliver (a) net zero emissions and (b) the Government policies set out in the (i) Industrial Strategy and (ii) Clean Growth Strategy. (274579)

7 Dr David Drew (Stroud):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the whether hydrogen is a green, zero carbon fuel, if carbon capture utilisation and storage is utilised alongside it. (274429)

48 Paul Farrelly (Newcastle-under-Lyme):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether the Government remains on track to achieve its walking and cycling targets. (274469)

49 Andy McDonald (Middlesbrough):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how much new rail capacity will be provided at Gatwick airport railway station under the £150 million upgrade to that station which he announced on 8 July 2019. (274552)

51 Jim Shannon (Strangford):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he has had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on establishing a public transport voucher scheme to allow vouchers to be taken from wages pre-taxation to encourage people to use public transport and lower carbon emissions in cities. (274537)

7N Mr Jim Cunningham (Coventry South):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the potential carbon reductions if hydrogen combined with carbon capture utilization and storage is used for the heat for homes sector. (274436)

8N Paul Farrelly (Newcastle-under-Lyme):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to support the UK biomass energy industry to become completely sustainable. (274460)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190709.pdf>

Written Answers – Tuesday 9th July

Climate Change

Seema Malhotra: [272194]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to (a) end subsidies to the fossil fuel-based energy industry, (b) phase out fossil fuel-based energy infrastructure and (c) accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy within the 11-year timeframe set out in the IPCC report to limit temperature rise this century to 1.5 degrees Celsius published on 8 October 2018.

Chris Skidmore:

Climate change is one of the most urgent and pressing challenges we face today, and the UK is committed to tackling it. We have set a new net zero greenhouse gas emissions target for the UK, to be delivered by 2050. This world-leading target will bring to an end our contribution to climate change, and makes us the first major economy to legislate for net zero emissions.

We are taking steps to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. We project that oil and gas will play a smaller role in meeting the UK's demand for energy over time, although there will continue to be a need for oil and gas as we transition to a low-carbon economy. We have committed to introducing legislation to phase out unabated coal-fired power generation in Great Britain from 1 October 2025 whilst supporting renewables. UK-wide coal

consumption is now at its lowest recorded level since the start of the industrial revolution and over half of our electricity came from low carbon sources last year.

The UK uses a definition of fossil fuel subsidies developed with the EC and other G20 EU Member States to respond to the G20 commitment to phase out such subsidies. The definition, based on the approach of the International Energy Agency, is – “A fossil-fuel subsidy is any government measure or program with the objective or direct consequence of reducing below world-market prices, including all costs of transport, refining and distribution, the effective cost for fossil fuels paid by final consumers, or of reducing the costs or increasing the revenues of fossil-fuel producing companies.” The UK has no fossil fuel subsidies.

Seema Malhotra: [272195]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of pursuing the target of net zero emissions by 2050 on historically economically marginalised communities; and what steps his Department has taken to ensure that policies to achieve the net zero target account for the needs of (a) workers in carbon-intensive industries and (b) historically economically marginalised communities.

Chris Skidmore:

The transition to a clean, low carbon economy can help give us towns and cities with cleaner air and warmer homes with lower bills, while growing our economy and supporting new jobs in growing low carbon industries – already there are almost 400,000 jobs in low carbon business and their supply chains. By one estimate this could grow to 2 million jobs in 2030.

But as our economy changes we must make sure that this growth is inclusive, benefits people right across the UK, supporting workers as industries change and ensuring the costs as well as the benefits are shared fairly, protecting consumers, workers and businesses. The Offshore Wind Sector Deal sets out that offshore wind could support 27,000 jobs across the UK by 2030. With the industry committed to sourcing 60% total lifetime UK content and increasing UK content in the capital expenditure phase, there will also be a need for highly skilled workers in manufacturing areas throughout the supply chain.

The sector will also bolster regional clusters by working with local, regional, and devolved government and economic development agencies.

That is why we have announced that HM Treasury will be conducting a review into the costs of decarbonisation, including how to achieve this transition in a way that works for households, businesses and public finances, and the implications for UK competitiveness.

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-09.pdf>

Written Questions – Wednesday 10th July

17 Tracey Crouch (Chatham and Aylesford):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to improve air quality in (a) Medway, (b) Tonbridge and Malling and (c) Maidstone. (275174)

18 Tracey Crouch (Chatham and Aylesford):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of air pollution levels in (a) Medway, (b) Tonbridge and Malling and (c) Maidstone. (275175)

22 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of climate mitigation and natural disaster recovery throughout the regions of the country in the last ten years; and what funding he plans to allocate to those matters in the next ten years. (275200)

23 Daniel Zeichner (Cambridge):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on fiscal measures to support his work on tackling climate change. (275213)

39 Dr David Drew (Stroud):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what estimate his Department has made of the total emissions from the transport sector of (a) PM2.5, (b) PM1 and (c) PM0.1 in the last three years for which data is available. (275104)

40 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many people in each region of the UK have received electric vehicle plug-in grants in each year since 2011. (275202)

2N Dr David Drew (Stroud):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, which EU Member States have adopted targets for zero net emissions by (a) 2050, (b) 2040, (c) another date and (d) a date not yet specified. (275103)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190710.pdf>

Written Answers – Wednesday 10th July

Climate Change

Mary Creagh: [911847]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to facilitate cross-governmental co-operation on tackling climate change.

Matthew Pennycook: [911856]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to facilitate cross-governmental co-operation on tackling climate change.

Clive Lewis: [911859]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to facilitate cross-governmental co-operation on tackling climate change.

Paul Blomfield: [911861]

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps his Department is taking to facilitate cross-governmental co-operation on tackling climate change.

Chris Skidmore:

Tackling climate change is a shared endeavour between all Government departments. BEIS Ministers and officials regularly engage with their counterparts across government on clean growth matters including delivery of the Clean Growth Strategy and progress against our carbon budgets.

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-10.pdf>

Written Questions – Thursday 11th July

1 Ian Lavery (Wansbeck):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he has taken to preserve on international co-operation on climate change when the UK leaves the EU. [Transferred] (275197)

2 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of climate mitigation and natural disaster recovery throughout the regions of the country in the last ten years; and what funding he plans to allocate to those matters in the next ten years. [Transferred] (275200)

10 Dr David Drew (Stroud):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to page 11 of the report entitled, Net Zero, published by the Committee on Climate Change in May 2019 on setting a target of net zero

by 2050 and if replicated across the world would deliver a 50 per cent chance of limiting the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees celsius, if he will make it his policy to set an earlier target date for reaching net zero. (275656)

13 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential for microgeneration of electricity and heat to contribute to the goals of (a) decarbonisation and (b) net zero emissions by 2050. (275754)

44 Andrew Percy (Brigg and Goole):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Government plans to put in place year-long environmental campaigns in 2020 similar to the Year of Green Action in 2019. (275734)

52 Gavin Robinson (Belfast East):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what progress has been made by each nation of the UK on developing common frameworks for environmental policy, legislation and regulation to manage shared environmental assets and meet environmental challenges after the UK has left the EU. (275771)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190711.pdf>

Written Answers – Thursday 11th July

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Andy McDonald: [272852]

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.

Michael Ellis:

The Department does not quantify the non-CO2 impacts of aviation because of the extent of the scientific uncertainty in this area. Whilst there are a number of emission types from air travel, other than CO2 that are known to have an impact on global warming, the magnitude of these impacts is not well known. This approach is consistent with the Committee on Climate Change's recent advice that acknowledges the difficulties in measuring and reporting the impact of non-CO2 emissions.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Matthew Pennycook: [273469]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, with reference to the Clean Air Strategy 2019, what guidance he has issued to ports on developing effective and targeted air quality strategies; and what recommendations the rail industry has made on phasing out diesel-only trains by 2040.

Michael Ellis:

The Government committed in the Clean Air Strategy to publish guidelines to advise ports on how to develop effective and targeted air quality strategies. Also in January 2019, the Government published Maritime 2050 which set out strategic ambitions for the future of the maritime sector, including a vision for zero emission shipping.

Building on these commitments, the Government will this week publish port air quality strategy guidelines, as well as the Clean Maritime Plan, which will set out further detail on a route map to reduce both air quality pollutant emissions and carbon dioxide from the maritime sector. My honourable friend, the Maritime Minister, will make a further statement to the House on the measures included within the plan on the day of publication.

The rail industry decarbonisation taskforce published an interim report in January 2019. We expect the taskforce to publish its final report shortly.

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-11.pdf>

Written Answers – Friday 12th July

Air Pollution: Health Hazards

Dr David Drew: [272727]

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what information his Department holds on studies undertaken by the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) on the effects on human health of (a) PM0.1 and (b) PM1.

Seema Kennedy:

Public Health England provides the Scientific Secretariat for the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants, an advisory committee of independent experts that provides advice to Government departments and agencies on how air pollution impacts on health. No assessment of the impact of PM1 and PM0.1 components of particulate air pollution has been produced.

A comprehensive list of the Committee's publications can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/comeap-reports>

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-12.pdf>

What's On

15th July – 19th July

Mon 15th July

4.00 pm

Public Accounts - Oral Evidence Session

Challenges in using data across Government

John Manzoni, Permanent Secretary, Cabinet Office
Sarah Healey, Permanent Secretary, Department for Digital, Culture,
Media and Sport

Location: Room 16, Palace of Westminster

Tues 16th July

10.05 am

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - Oral Evidence Session

Regional investment and growth

Anthony May, Chairman, Midlands Engine Operational Board
Chris Hobson, Director of Policy and External Affairs, East Midlands Chamber
Julia Goldsworthy, Director of Strategy, West Midlands Combined Authority

Location: The Wilson Room, Portcullis House

4.35 pm

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - Oral Evidence Session

Clean Growth Strategy and International Climate Change Targets

Chris Skidmore MP, Interim Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Location: The Thatcher Room, Portcullis House

Weds 17th July

9.30 am

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Oral Evidence Session

Plastic food and drink packaging

Dan Roberts, Vice Chair, Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC)
Jacob Hayler, Executive Director, Environmental Services Association
Richard Kirkman, Chief Technology & Innovation Officer, Veolia UK & Ireland
Councillor Peter Fleming, Deputy Chairman, Local Government Association and Leader of Sevenoaks District Council
Dr Thérèse Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment

Location: Room 8, Palace of Westminster

9.30 am

Treasury - Oral Evidence Session

IT failures in the financial services sector

Graham Bastin, Head of Operational Resilience, Barclays
Ian Lundberg, Chief Officer Head of Client Services, Visa
Anne Boden, CEO, Starling Bank

Location: The Grimond Room, Portcullis House

9.45 am

Transport - Oral Evidence Session

Departmental policy and performance: Update with the Secretary of State

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, Secretary of State for Transport, Department for Transport

Location: The Wilson Room, Portcullis House

10.00 am

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - Oral Evidence Session

Pre-appointment hearing with the Government's preferred candidate for Chair of the FRC

Simon Dingemans, Government's preferred candidate for the post of Chair of the Financial Reporting Council (FRC)

Location: The Thatcher Room, Portcullis House

2.30 pm

Public Accounts - Oral Evidence Session

Serious and Organised Crime

Colonel Peter McCall, Police and Crime Commissioner, Cumbria

Chief Constable Andy Cooke, Merseyside Police

Sir Philip Rutnam, Permanent Secretary, Home Office

Julia Kinniburgh, Director General Serious and Organised Crime, Home Office

Lynne Owens, Director General, National Crime Agency

Location: Room 16, Palace of Westminster

3.00 pm

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Oral Evidence Session

The new farming programme

Tamara Finkelstein, Permanent Secretary

David Kennedy, Director-General, Food, Farming and Bio-Security

Sarah Church, Director, Future Farming and Countryside, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Location: The Wilson Room, Portcullis House

Thurs 18th July

N/A

Fri 19th July

N/A