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Weekly Public Affairs Report: Friday 19th July 2019

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Written Answers – Monday 15th July

Carbon Emissions: EU Countries

Dr David Drew: [275103]

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.

Chris Skidmore:

The UK was the first major economy to legislate for a net zero target. The action we are taking in setting this target will continue our proud tradition of climate leadership.

The EU Member States that have targets for net zero greenhouse gas emissions in legislation are Sweden (by 2045) and the United Kingdom (by 2050). France is currently in the process of legislating for a 2050 net zero greenhouse target.

In addition, a range of Member States have adopted or are currently publicly considering adopting plans for net zero carbon or greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and in some cases have stated their intention is to legislate for a target. These include Denmark, Germany, and Portugal and Finland. Other Member States with plans to significantly reduce emissions by 2050 include the Netherlands, which has a law to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by

95%, and Spain, which has a draft law proposing an at least 90% reduction (in both cases the reduction is compared to 1990).

The EU is also considering adopting a bloc-wide net zero 2050 target, with a large majority of Member States, including the UK, supporting a net zero EU target by 2050 at the June European Council this year. Through ratifying the Paris Agreement, the EU and its Member States have already committed to aiming for a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of the century, as set out in Article 4.1 of the Agreement.

Air Pollution: Children

Bill Wiggin: [273347]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to protect children from the effect of toxic air on their health.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The pollutants found in air are not themselves toxic but can cause irritation and their effect can have consequences which exacerbate particular conditions. The Government is committed to tackling air pollution, including reducing impacts on vulnerable groups such as children. We have put in place a £3.5 billion plan to improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions and on 14 January 2019, we announced our new world leading Clean Air Strategy, which includes new and ambitious goals, legislation, investment and policies which will help us to clean up our air faster and more effectively. The World Health Organisation has praised the strategy as 'an example for the rest of the world to follow'.

Climate Change

Dr David Drew: [275655]

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the report of the Committee on Climate Change entitled, Progress in preparing for climate change, published on 10 July, for what reasons good progress was not made in any of the 33 sectors assessed by that Committee on actions needed to manage climate change risks.

David Rutley:

The Government welcomes the report by the Committee on Climate Change. We are committed to taking robust action to improve resilience to climate change, and will formally respond to the Committee's detailed recommendations in October, in line with the timetable set out in the Climate Change Act.

Transport: Exhaust Emissions

Dr David Drew: [275104]

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.

Michael Ellis:

Figures for the emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) from domestic transport of (a) 2.5 micrometres or less, (b) 1 micrometre or less, and (c) 0.1 micrometres or less for the years 2015 to 2017 are in the table below. Table 1. Final emissions of PM2.5, PM1, and PM0.1 from domestic transport for the years 2015, 2016, and 2017 in kilotonnes. Source: (NAEI).

<https://qndailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qndailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-15.pdf>

Written Questions – Monday 15th July

15 Seema Malhotra (Feltham and Heston):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the UK leaving the EU without a deal for the aviation industry on (a) the passage of flights across EU countries and the UK, (b) air services agreements, (c) aviation safety and security, (d) border management and (e) the environment. (276540)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190715.pdf>

Written Questions – Tuesday 16th July

12 Gareth Thomas (Harrow West):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to include emissions from international aviation in the Government's climate targets. (277100)

27 Layla Moran (Oxford West and Abingdon):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department has taken to help the agricultural sector create new jobs in environmental land management. (277287)

28 Layla Moran (Oxford West and Abingdon):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that its Environmental Land Management scheme is developed as part of the Government's overall strategy to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. (277288)

42 Gareth Thomas (Harrow West):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, by what proportion, compared to current figures, will carbon emissions from aviation at Heathrow change following the completion of a third runway. (277099)

43 Gareth Thomas (Harrow West):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he will take to offset the carbon emissions from increased aviation into and out of Heathrow following its proposed expansion. (277101)

47 Mohammad Yasin (Bedford):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to replace the plug-in car grant to encourage the manufacture and sale of low emission vehicles. (277246)

4N Andrea Leadsom (South Northamptonshire):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps the Government is taking to ensure the affordability of domestic energy costs as the UK transitions to a carbon neutral environment by 2050. (277191)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190716.pdf>

Written Answers – Tuesday 16th July

Climate Change

Seema Malhotra: [275200]

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.

Chris Skidmore:

Climate change mitigation and natural disaster recovery are priorities for this government. Investment in reducing the UK's contribution to climate change and managing its impacts can deliver benefits across the UK. This is why we have placed clean growth at the heart of our modern Industrial Strategy. Future funding decisions are a matter for the Spending Review.

Dr David Drew: [275656]

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 emissions by 2050 and if he will make it his policy to set an earlier target date for reaching net zero.

Chris Skidmore:

The Committee on Climate Change make clear in their report that they do not currently consider it credible for the UK to aim to reach net-zero emissions earlier than 2050.

We have considered their advice and legislated in line with it. The UK is the first major economy in the world to set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This world-leading target will bring to an end our contribution to climate change.

Having set this target, we are calling on other countries to similarly increase their ambition.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Ian Lavery: [275197]

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

Chris Skidmore:

Leaving the EU does not change the UK's commitment to domestic and international action to tackle climate change. On 27 June, the UK became the first major economy in the world to set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050. We will continue to work closely with our European and other international partners to secure ambitious climate objectives. We will do this through continued cooperation in multilateral groups - including the UNFCCC, G7, G20, the Commonwealth and the International Energy Agency – as well as continued strong bilateral relationships on climate with countries around the world. Our recent bid to host COP26 in 2020, under a UK Presidency in partnership with Italy, demonstrates our continued commitment to play a global leadership role in galvanising action on climate change.

Aviation: Noise

Andrew Rosindell: [275142]

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to reduce aviation noise in the South East.

Michael Ellis:

The Government recognises that aviation noise is a key concern for communities that aircraft fly over, including the South East.

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. Airspace modernisation 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.

Through the Aviation Strategy, we have also considered how sustainable growth should be defined in terms of noise. Proposals brought forward in the green paper include developing a new national indicator to track the long-term performance of the sector in reducing noise, routinely setting noise caps as part of planning approvals, and requiring all major airports to set out a plan which commits to future noise reduction, and to review this periodically.

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

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-16.pdf>

Written Questions – Wednesday 17th July

5 Gareth Thomas (Harrow West):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to include emissions from international aviation in the Government's climate targets.
[Transferred] (277100)

3 Dr David Drew (Stroud):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he plans to take to ensure that the advice provided in the European

Commission recommendations document EU 2019/1019, on reducing CO2 emissions, is distributed widely throughout the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. (277627)

3 Dr Alan Whitehead (Southampton, Test):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister for Energy and Clean Growth on 16 July 2019, what information his Department holds on the functions of those 400,000 green jobs. (277596)

15 Dr Alan Whitehead (Southampton, Test):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the oral contribution of the Minister for Energy and Clean Growth on 16 July 2019, what information his Department holds on the types of jobs that will be included in the two million additional green jobs that potentially will be available by 2030. (277598)

39 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to his Department's consultation on cleaner domestic burning of solid fuels and wood in England, what different types of PM2.5s released when burning (a) smokeless briquettes, (b) wet wood, (c) dried wood and (d) house coal on open domestic fires in England his Department is assessing; and if he will make a statement. (277779)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/noq190717.pdf>

Written Answers – Wednesday 17th July

Air Pollution: Kent

Tracey Crouch: [275174]

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.

Tracey Crouch: [275175]

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.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

Air pollution is reducing in the UK, as set out in the annual National Statistics report:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/air-quality-statistics>

There are 169 national automatic monitoring stations in the UK, of which 2 stations are in Medway. Chatham Roadside measures hourly concentrations of nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5); Rochester Stoke measures concentrations of ozone and sulphur dioxide in addition to these pollutants. Near realtime measurements from these sites and further data tools can be found on the UKAIR website (<https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/>).

There are no national automatic monitoring stations in Tonbridge and Malling or Maidstone.

All local authorities also carry out their own air quality monitoring activities and produce annual status reports on air quality within the local authority boundaries.

Each of the local authorities has air quality management areas which can be found online at <https://uk-air.defra.gov.uk/aqma/maps>

Councils have statutory duties to tackle air pollution and already have considerable powers.

Defra's Air Quality Grant Programme provides funding to local authorities for projects in local communities to tackle air pollution and reduce emissions. The scheme has awarded over £60 million in funding to a variety of projects since it started in 1997 and over £3 million will be awarded this year.

We will bring forward provisions on air quality in 2019 in the forthcoming Environment Bill.

Climate Change

Daniel Zeichner: [275213]

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.

Dr Thérèse Coffey:

The Secretary of State has had discussions on a number of occasions with the Chancellor regarding action on climate change and uses taxpayers' money to support nature based solutions.

Climate Change

Daniel Zeichner: [275212]

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of imposing taxes on polluting goods to tackle climate change.

Robert Jenrick:

The Government has legislated to amend its long-term greenhouse gas emissions target to reach net zero by 2050.

The Government has a number of policies in place to tax polluting goods in order to tackle climate change. These include the Carbon Price Support rate, a tax on fossil fuels used in power generation, and the Climate Change Levy, a tax on businesses' consumption of gas, electricity and solid fuels.

<https://qnadailyreport.blob.core.windows.net/qnadailyreportxml/Written-Questions-Answers-Statements-Daily-Report-Commons-2019-07-17.pdf>

Written Questions – Thursday 18th July

13 Dr David Drew (Stroud):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 15 July 2019 to Question 275103 on Carbon Emissions: EU Countries, what dates have been set as targets for net zero emissions by (a) Finland, (b) Denmark, (c) Germany and (d) Portugal. (278338)

22 Paul Farrelly (Newcastle-under-Lyme):

To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of increasing the amount of ethanol in petrol sold to reduce carbon emissions. (278404)

73 Ian Lavery (Wansbeck):

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions his Department has had with the Department for Transport on reducing emissions on UK roads. (278510)

136N Anneliese Dodds (Oxford East):

To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway project on the Government's greenhouse gas emissions targets. [Transferred] (277843)

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmquestionbook/nog190718.pdf>

Written Answers – Thursday 18th July

N/A

Written Answers – Friday 19th July

N/A

What's On

22nd July – 26th July

Mon 22nd July

N/A

Tues 23rd July

10.00 am

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy - Oral Evidence Session

The safety of electrical goods in the UK follow-up

Lynn Faulds Wood, author of UK Consumer Product Recall: An independent Review

Kelly Tolhurst MP, Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Graham Russell MBE, CEO, Office for Product Safety and Standards

Location: The Thatcher Room, Portcullis House

10.15 am

Environmental Audit - Oral Evidence Session

Climate change and biodiversity: one-off session

Rt Hon Lord Deben, Chairman, Committee on Climate Change

Tony Juniper CBE, Chair, Natural England

Location: The Grimond Room, Portcullis House

2.45 pm

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Oral Evidence Session

Coastal flooding and adaptation to climate change

Malcolm Kerby, Coastal Concern Action Group, Happisburgh

Karen Thomas, Head of Coastal Management, Coastal Partnership East

Bill Parker, former Head of Coastal Management, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils

Dr George Revill, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, The Open University

Rachael Bice, Head of Environmental Growth and Partnerships, Cornwall Council

Councillor Armand Toms, Cornwall Council and Looe Town Councillor

Location: The Thatcher Room, Portcullis House

Weds 24th July

10.00 am

Treasury - Oral Evidence Session

IT failures in the financial services sector

Alison Barker, Director of Specialist Supervision, Financial Conduct Authority

Lyndon Nelson, Deputy CEO and Executive Director, Regulatory Operations and Supervisory Risks Specialists, Prudential Regulation Authority

David Bailey, Executive Director Financial Market Infrastructure, Bank of England

Location: The Wilson Room, Portcullis House

Thurs 25th July

N/A

Fri 26th July

N/A