Stephen McGinness  
Clerk, Science and Technology Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1A 0AA

29 October 2013

& by email to:  
McGinnessS@parliament.uk

Dear Mr. McGinness,

The various exchanges between the Committee and The Daily Telegraph have been brought to my attention and I thought it might be helpful if I responded.

First and foremost thank you for the interest you have shown in the Telegraph's views. I can only apologise for the difficulty you had in obtaining a prompt reply. I suspect it would have come more quickly if your request had, as is conventional, been addressed in the first instance by the Chairman to the Editor, in writing. I am sorry you had to wait and I can assure you no disrespect to the Committee was intended.

Second, I am sorry you are disappointed by Ian Marsden's reply of October 15, in which he declined your request for the Telegraph to provide a witness for your inquiry. We have the highest respect for the Committee, its Members and its work. We do not believe however that we have anything useful to add to its inquiry. Anything we might wish to say is publicly available in The Daily Telegraph, both in print and online. Our position on climate change has been exhaustively set out in our leader columns and is, in the briefest terms, that we accept that climate change is taking place, that human activity contributes to it, but that the response to the challenge posed does not require piling costs onto consumers or favouring costly green technologies versus others that are available.

As for the evidence on which we base our coverage, which Mr Miller referred to in his letter to the Editor of October 14, it too is publicly available, as our correspondents merely report what is published and discussed in the course of what is a long-standing debate. Separately, our columnists such as Geoffrey Lean carry out their own research on which they base articles setting out their own opinions, which do not necessarily
reflect the views of The Daily Telegraph. The Sunday Telegraph is a separate publication and I cannot speak for its views or coverage.

Certainly, if the committee wanted to put to us questions in writing we could consider them, but as I explained everything we might wish to say can be read in our pages.

I hope this helpful,

Yours sincerely,

Benedict Brogan
Deputy Editor, The Daily Telegraph