



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

020 7219 5777 - beiscom@parliament.uk - www.parliament.uk/beis - @CommonsBEIS

Chris Skidmore MP

Interim Minister of State for Energy and Clean Growth

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

1 Victoria Street

London SW1H 0ET

25th June 2019

Dear Chris,

On 24 June the House approved a statutory instrument to amend the 2050 emissions target in the Climate Change Act from “80%” to “100%”. Ahead of the planned Ministerial evidence session on the Committee’s Net Zero inquiry, I would like to request clarification the Government’s intended approach to deliver this new emissions reduction target. I would be grateful if you could provide the following information by 5 July, to inform our evidence session with you on 10 July.

- Will you invite the CCC to advise on recommended changes to the 4th and 5th Carbon Budgets, as well as to later Carbon Budgets, to ensure that the UK remains on track to deliver the net zero target at least possible cost?
- How does the Government plan to ensure that UK emissions are reduced to net zero by 2050, inclusive of international aviation and shipping? Do you intend to legislate for emissions reductions from these sectors to bring them in line with the net zero target?
- Does the Government agree with the CCC’s advice that the UK should aim to meet the net-zero target through domestic action, and therefore that international carbon units should not be planned for and that their use should only be as a contingency”?
- What analysis has the Government undertaken on how the use of international credits might affect the feasibility of the UK reaching zero emissions *earlier* than 2050? Please share a summary of findings.
- How does the Government plan to work with other countries to develop markets for international carbon units? What are your plans to ensure that only carbon units offering genuinely additional emissions reduction or removal are allowed, and that these are part of schemes that also support sustainable development?
- What role will the Department play in the proposed 5-year review of the net zero target? Will the review allow for increasing the ambition and scope of the target, if other countries set ambitious targets?

- How is BEIS liaising with HM Treasury on the recommended net zero funding review? As coordinator of cross-Government action for climate change mitigation, how does BEIS expect to contribute to this?

*Yours,
Rachel Reeves*

Rachel Reeves MP

Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee