



Environmental Audit Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
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6 September 2018

Dear

As you are aware, my Committee is conducting an inquiry into the Changing Arctic. So far we have heard evidence about the rapid environmental change taking place there, how this impacts Arctic communities and the UK's role in protecting this vulnerable region.

Following a hearing with the Minister for the Polar Regions and the Minister for the Environment, it would be useful if you could address the following questions that fall in your department's remit:

- What research has the UK conducted on the impact of climate change on Arctic indigenous peoples?
- Are there any plans to expand the Arctic Office to become a broader, more interdisciplinary UKRI Arctic Office?
- Why does the UK fund more research infrastructure in Antarctica than the Arctic?
- NERC told us that it is working with BEIS to consider "almost any scenario" for Arctic research funding after leaving the EU. What are the contingency plans to protect the UK's funding to ensure we remain a world leader in Arctic research?
- We heard that FCO, DEFRA and BEIS have highlighted 3 Sustainable Development Goals as key to the Arctic (on climate change, on ocean protection and on biodiversity). What work has the UK done to monitor the progress of these 3 SDGs in the Arctic?
- How is the UK's endorsement of oil exploration in the Arctic compatible with the Paris Agreement?
- How is the UK lending its expertise in renewable energy to the development of renewable energy capacity in Arctic communities?

I look forward to your response to the above questions. It would be helpful for our inquiry if you could respond by 15th September.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Creagh MP

Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee