I would like to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Net Zero Government inquiry. Net Zero is a key departmental policy objective and BEIS is determined to be a leading role model across Whitehall.

The Clean Growth Strategy’s ambition for the public sector (including central government) sees emissions falling by around 50% by 2032 compared to 2017 on the trajectory to reach net zero by 2050 and the sustainability of the Government’s estates, plays an important role in meeting this target.

I promised to write to the Committee in response to a question that was raised during the session, in relation to the inclusion of scope 3 emissions in our emissions targets within the Greening Government Commitments.

As there was some discussion around this during the Committee session, it may be helpful for me to clarify how scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions are defined:

- Scope 1 are direct emissions from the activities of an organisation or under their control, e.g. fossil fuel combustion used for heating and cooking, car fleet emissions
- Scope 2 are indirect emissions from energy used by an organisation but producing emissions elsewhere, predominantly electricity procured from the national grid
- Scope 3 are other indirect emissions from sources out of the control of the organisation. So, this includes business travel, purchased goods and supply chain, waste emissions from landfill, employee commuting, embodied carbon in capital works etc.

The Greening Government Commitments’ greenhouse gas emissions’ target captures scope 3 emissions in relation to UK business travel. However, other scope 3 emissions are not currently covered by that target. However, as you will be aware, there are separate Greening Government Commitment targets for domestic flights, waste, paper consumption, water, procurement and transparency.

The Government is currently in the process of developing the next set of Greening Government Commitment targets covering the period 2020-25.
Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP
Minister of State for Business, Energy and Clean Growth