



# Science and Technology Committee

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From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Caroline Lucas MP  
House of Commons

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## Climate change

Thank you for your recent letter about Graham Stringer's article on climate change in the *Daily Mail*.

His article was triggered by the recent academic report from Richard Millar and colleagues, published in *Nature Geoscience*. Others, including the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change, have commented on what that recent research shows. There are, in my view, two important points to highlight. First, while emissions and warming in the years to 2015 lie below the mean projections of the 'CMIP5' ensemble of models they still lie within the main range of the models' projections. I do not personally see, on the basis of this most recently published research, any grounds for doubting the significance of the climate challenge we face. Second, the 'discrepancy' the academics have identified in the gap between actual recent warming and the mean CMIP5 projections provides a greater opportunity for countries to meet their Paris Agreement emission-reduction pledges in order to avoid warming exceeding 1.5°C. That is the positive conclusion I take from their work.

Individual members of the Science and Technology Committee are entitled to their personal perspectives and views, on climate change and on any other issue. The task of the Committee, and for me as its Chair, is to ensure that in every inquiry we undertake we follow the evidence, and that is what I will do. The views of the Committee, rather than its individual members, are expressed through its scrutiny reports. This important distinction was demonstrated in a previous S&T Committee report in 2011, as it happens on climate change issues. Their report, on *The Reviews into the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit's Emails*, was agreed after a member tabled drafting amendments which were not accepted by the rest of the Committee — there was transparency on the views of the individual member (as the Formal Minutes published in that report set out) as well as of the Committee (the agreed and published report).

I am copying this letter to Graham Stringer.

**Norman Lamb MP**

Chair