



Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee
Environmental Audit Committee
Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee
Science and Technology Committee
Transport Committee
Treasury Committee

Committee Office · House of Commons · London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

23 June 2020

Climate Assembly UK: Interim briefing on Covid-19 and the Path to Net Zero

Dear Prime Minister,

The UK's first national citizens' assembly on climate change has now completed its work. Today it is publishing an interim briefing on the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resulting lockdown and the economic response for the path to net zero. The participants wanted their views on the recovery from Covid-19 to be published ahead of the final report, to help inform Parliament and Government's response to the crisis.

We agree with your aspiration to "build back better" and create a "greener and more resilient" economy in the wake of the pandemic. The view of assembly members, having considered evidence on the path to net zero, is clear. 79% want the steps taken by Government to help the economy recover to be designed to help achieve net zero. And specifically, on lifestyles, 93% want steps to be taken to encourage those to be more compatible with reaching net zero as lockdown eases.

The interim briefing will be used as evidence by the Committee on Climate Change in its upcoming Progress Report to Parliament. Climate Assembly UK's much more detailed main body of work, on the path to achieving the UK's target of net zero emissions by 2050, will be published after the summer recess.

The assembly members were selected to be representative of the UK population across all four nations, a broad range of demographic characteristics, and levels of concern about climate change. Together they provide a unique insight into the views of an informed, representative sample of the UK population on the pathway to, and trade-offs associated with, achieving net zero. The final weekend of discussions was conducted online during the lockdown and allowed the members to consider the response to coronavirus.

It is vital that achieving the UK's net zero target, which has unanimous cross-party support, is a joint endeavour between the Government, Parliament and the public across the country. In recent months the UK public has demonstrated its capacity to respond positively and responsibly when they understand the risks posed to them by an invisible threat that demands collective action. We believe that a similar approach, based on securing public support for ambitious policies through open dialogue around the science, is a sound basis for the net zero journey.

We are very grateful to the 108 assembly members for completing their work in difficult circumstances. Our Committees will use their findings to inform our work scrutinising Government

policy and implementation. We are sure that the Government will want to take them into account when developing policies and explaining them to Parliament.

We look forward to sharing the final report and working constructively with Government to achieve net zero.

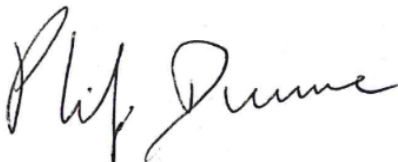
Yours sincerely,



Clive Betts MP
Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee



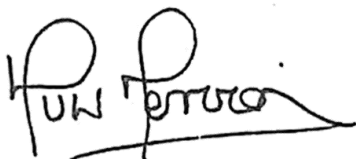
Rt Hon Greg Clark MP
Chair, Science & Technology Committee



Rt Hon Philip Dunne MP
Chair, Environmental Audit Committee



Darren Jones MP
Chair, Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee



Huw Merriman MP
Chair, Transport Committee



Rt Hon Mel Stride MP
Chair, Treasury Committee