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Dear John

Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change in Wales: 2011 Progress Report

This is a response to your letter in March 2011 requesting our advice on progress reducing Welsh emissions (the specific request is in Annex A of the main report¹).

In addressing your request, we have focused on assessing the Welsh emission targets and strategy, latest data on emissions and drivers, and policies to drive future emission reductions. We have also made an initial assessment of progress on measures to prepare for climate change within the adaptation part of the strategy.

On the emissions reduction strategy, our analysis suggests that Wales has ambitious emission reduction targets – more so than the UK. We conclude that Welsh targets are appropriate given long term objectives, and that the 3% target represents a rational way of focusing on areas under Welsh control.

Specific conclusions are that:

- Emissions fell by around 14% in 2009 but are likely to have increased in 2010. This has implications on the baseline (years 2006-10) from which the 3% emission target will be measured. Our current assessment is that the baseline for the 3% emissions target is currently 33.1 MtCO₂, but that this will have to be adjusted when 2010 data is available.

¹ Committee on Climate Change and Adaptation Sub-Committee (2011) *Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change in Wales: 2011 Progress Report*. Available from <http://hmccc.s3.amazonaws.com/CCC - Welsh Progress Report 18 Oct 2011.pdf>

- Our assessment is that Wales is making good progress developing approaches to deliver significant emission reductions over the next decade. However, at the sectoral level, our analysis suggests that there may be more scope for emission reductions, particularly in residential, business, agriculture and public sectors.
- There is an important role for the Welsh Government in supporting roll out of energy efficiency improvement, renewable heat deployment, programmes to encourage transport consumer behaviour change and to improve farming practice, and to fulfil its leadership role in reducing public sector emissions.
- The strategy requires significant emission reductions through *wider contributions from others*. The exact scope of these contributions appears to be highly uncertain, and more detail should be provided about what exactly is envisaged here, in order to provide confidence that emission reductions will actually ensue.

Analysis by our Adaptation Sub-Committee, chaired by Lord John Krebs, concludes that on adaptation:

- The Welsh Government and key delivery partners have made good progress to date in implementing the measures set out in its adaptation delivery plan, with many of the policies or programmes now in place or shortly to be completed.
- Over the coming year, it will be important that the Welsh Government:
 - Clarifies its position on future delivery of adaptation advice, now that in England many of the functions of the UK Climate Impacts Programme have transferred to the Environment Agency;
 - Produces the four remaining sectoral adaptation plans to ensure that adaptation is properly embedded in its own plans and policies, and those of key delivery organisations (businesses, local authorities, and other public agencies);
 - Starts to shift focus towards implementation of adaptation actions, ensuring that policies enable the uptake of low-regret adaptation measures; and
 - Ensures that decisions with long-term consequences are explicitly considering the costs and opportunities from a changing climate and that appropriate adaptation responses are developed.
- Key to all of this will be defining adaptation outcomes clearly and evaluating the effectiveness of policies in materially reducing Wales' vulnerability to current and future climate and enhancing opportunities in a cost-effective way.

The analysis underpinning these conclusions is set out in ['Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change in Wales: 2011 Progress Report'](#).

I would be very happy to discuss further with you as required, and look forward to our continued work together.

Yours ever,



Adair Turner
Chair, Committee on Climate Change