

Committee on Climate Change  
7 Holbein Place  
London SW1W 8NR

Dr Fiona Harrison  
Deputy Director, Climate, Noise, Data and Analysis  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

30 March 2017

Dear Fiona,

### **Advice on the third round of Adaptation Reporting Power reports**

I am writing to provide you with the Adaptation Sub-Committee's advice on the Government strategy for the third round of reporting under the Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP) in the Climate Change Act, following your request of last September.

The ASC's advice in the enclosed report highlights that in the second round of reporting (ARP2) many of the organisations that took part invested significant effort into assessing risks and considering appropriate adaptation actions, and we found many examples of good practice. However, the committee was disappointed that some organisations did not take part in the process, with the voluntary nature of round two probably also impacting the quality and value of some reports. There is more to do to make sure future ARP rounds provide a robust national-, regional- and sector-level assessment of climate change risks and the impact of adaptation actions taking place. This will be particularly important for future climate change risk assessments but also the ASC's biennial statutory progress reports on the National Adaptation Programme.

Having reviewed the results of ARP2, the committee recommends that:

- **Timing.** The next ARP round should be complete in time for reports to inform the third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) and the ASC's 2021 progress report to Parliament. This means organisations should report by December 2019. Subsequent rounds should be complete at least two years ahead of the deadline for presenting the CCRA to Parliament. The timing of other considerations, such as other statutory business planning and reporting milestones within the regulated sectors, should also be taken into account.
- **Mandatory reporting.** Following this voluntary round, ARP3 should be made mandatory to ensure that all relevant organisations take part, and that senior executives within these organisations are routinely engaged in the process of managing climate change risks.

- **Updated guidance.** Defra should review and improve its guidance for ARP3 to elicit more uniform, meaningful and quantified results and conclusions, including in relation to risks from interdependencies, whilst ensuring any additional burden is minimised if organisations report along similar lines as part of other processes.
- **Widened scope.** Defra should consider widening the scope of ARP reporting to encourage those sectors that have yet to report to provide evidence of their approach to climate change risk management. Priorities would be additional organisations within the telecommunications sector (such as internet and mobile network operators), wider aspects of the financial services sector, and to promote climate change adaptation amongst local authorities. Defra should also investigate how best to collect data, raise awareness and encourage action in the health and social care sector before considering which bodies should report in ARP3.

Further details on these points are provided in the report enclosed with this letter.

One issue that this process has highlighted is the continuing lack of data on the vulnerability of infrastructure to extreme weather, and the progress that has been made in improving resilience having learned lessons from recent events. Access to the data on asset vulnerability collected as part of the National Flood Resilience Review, and the actions now being taken, is important so that the ASC's report to Parliament this summer is based on the best and latest evidence available. As yet the Cabinet Office has not released the information it collected as part of the review. Your help with making progress on this would be much appreciated.

I look forward to discussing these conclusions with you as you consider proposals for ARP3 to put to public consultation later this year.

Yours sincerely,



DANIEL JOHNS  
Head of Adaptation  
Committee on Climate Change