

Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5ND

14 July 2020

### Adaptation in the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution

Thank you for your continued efforts to drive forward the preparations for COP26. With adaptation as one of your five themes, it will be important for the credibility of the Presidency to show increased ambition in preparing for the effects of climate change domestically, as well as supporting resilience-building overseas. Those should be showcased in the UK's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the global response to climate change.

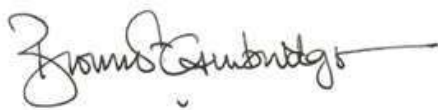
The impacts of climate change on the UK, today and in the future, remind us that adapting to the changing climate is not just an issue for the Southern Hemisphere or small island nations. It is also not just a local issue: global supply chains will continue to be essential, for example to ensure everyone has access to a healthy and varied diet, access that is resilient to climate shocks and other crises; climate-related disasters such as drought may contribute to driving refugees to take risky routes to try and find new places to settle. Adaptation locally has global benefits. Global support for adaptation action is critical, and the FCO and the UK's aid programme have a strong and influential reputation in this area.

The CCC has a statutory role to report to Parliament on progress in adaptation in England. Our most recent report found that the country is not yet prepared for the changes in the climate that are now inevitable, let alone higher levels of warming that are still possible if the world does not reach net zero emissions quickly. Adaptation policy ambition and implementation has not been raised in the Government's latest National Adaptation Programme despite the increasing risks from extreme heat, flooding and water scarcity. A sizeable shift in ambition is needed to meet your own pledge to "place adaptation at the heart of the post-Covid green recovery".

I urge you to use the opportunity of the UK's NDC to set out ambitious plans for adaptation domestically, alongside international commitments, including the announced doubling of investment in the International Climate Fund. The NDC is the right platform to do this for two reasons. Firstly, other nations will be looking to the NDC to see how the UK demonstrates its leadership. Secondly, adaptation needs to be tackled alongside reducing emissions to ensure proper integration in policy making and investment. This is not yet happening, and time is running short.

I am copying this letter to Zac Goldsmith and Rebecca Pow.

With best wishes,



Baroness Brown of Cambridge  
Chair, Adaptation Committee