

17 December 2020

Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

Thank you for your enquiry, received on 04 December 2020.

Your request:

Pertains to what extent is climate change anthropogenic.

1. Do you think humans are to blame for climate change?
2. What human activity do you think has contributed the most to climate change?
3. What are the impacts of climate change?
4. Do you think climate change is caused by natural factors?

Our response:

- 1) The extensive body of scientific literature determines that humans are the dominant cause of climate change. This evidence base is regularly summarised by bodies such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) including through their [5th Assessment Report](#). The most recent assessment by the IPCC concluded that human influence was responsible for all of the observed warming since the pre-industrial period. An up-to-date tracker of the human influence on the climate can be found [here](#).
- 2) Human emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel burning are the dominant human contribution to climate change. The annual greenhouse gas index from [here](#) is a useful up-to-date source of how much increased concentrations of different gases are causing climate change. The source of CO₂ emissions can be found from the [Global Carbon Project](#).
- 3) We provide a brief summary of some of the impacts of climate change at different levels of warming in Chapter 8 (section 5) of our recent [Sixth Carbon Budget report](#). A summary of current and future impacts in the UK is also detailed in the [2nd Climate Change Risks Assessment Evidence Report](#).
- 4) Natural factors, such as volcanoes and changes in solar output have been a contributor to climate changes in the past, but [are not thought to be a significant contributor to the recent observed warming over several decades](#).

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