

Climate Change Committee Meeting

Present: Lord Deben (Chair), Keith Bell, Michael Davies, Piers Forster, Corinne Le Quéré

Apologies: Paul Johnson

Member interests: www.theccc.org.uk/about/transparency

Date: 17th February 2023, 09:45-12:30

Held: Online

Climate Change Committee

1 Victoria Street,
Westminster, London,
SW1H 0ET

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1. Conflicts of interest, minutes of the previous meetings

No new conflicts of interest were raised.

No comments were received on the draft minutes for the meeting on 20th January circulated for approval.

2. External Speaker: Myles Allen, University of Oxford

Myles Allen, Professor of Geosystem Science and Director of the Oxford Net Zero initiative, came to talk to the committee about geological net zero and the recent study on carbon takeback obligation – a requirement that all fossil fuels extracted or imported into a region, nation or group of nations, be offset by storing an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide. The Committee found the proposals very interesting and asked several follow-up questions, including around the feasibility of implementing such a proposal in practice.

3. Plans for Fairness and Affordability Workstream

The secretariat introduced plans to develop a report on “who pays and who benefits” from the transition to Net Zero and presented its potential objectives and timelines. This was followed by a presentation of the distributional impacts analysis that could be developed. The Committee agreed on the importance of the report, underlining the importance of minimising the risk of misinterpretation of any analysis and models that are published. The secretariat was joined by the PwC team led by Dom Boyle to discuss a new project that aims to assess the co-benefits of climate action. The Committee further agreed that the co-benefits project should focus on benefits and disbenefits that have a large-scale impact and established methodologies for quantification, while making explicit where conditionality exists.

4. AOB and Close

The secretariat presented an update on plans for a report on the role of people in the transition. The Committee recommended considering the role of people in a range of roles in society, making clear where the responsibility of individuals starts and ends, and including an adaptation lens.

The secretariat requested volunteers to be the Welsh Committee Champion ahead of the Welsh progress report in April. Piers volunteered to be Welsh Champion.

The secretariat introduced new joiners to their teams.