

Rt Hon Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Date 28 June 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

Please find attached the Climate Change Committee's 2023 Progress Report to Parliament, my last as Chairman, which is laid in Parliament today.

In it, we look back at the UK's warmest year on record when, in the minds of many people, climate change truly arrived. Last summer's record-breaking heatwave caused unprecedented numbers of heat-related deaths, wildfires, and significant disruption. During your premiership, you will no doubt want to lead the UK's response to future climate-related extreme weather events.

Throughout my 11-year term, my Committee has held every Government's feet to the fire on tackling climate change. It has been our role to ensure they make good on the legal commitments set out in the Climate Change Act and in the subsequent legislation which reflects the UK's international obligations.

Every June, the law demands that the CCC presents to Parliament our honest and evidence-based assessment of how well the UK is doing to reduce emissions. This has not always been an easy message for the Government and I appreciate the openness and integrity with which it has been received over the years.

My final assessment is this:

The failure to act decisively in response to the energy crisis and build on the success of hosting COP26 means that the UK has lost its clear global climate leadership while game-changing interventions from the US and Europe, which will turbocharge growth of renewables, are leaving the UK behind. Inaction has been compounded by continuing support for further unnecessary investment in fossil fuels.

The Government must act urgently to correct the failures of the past year – it cannot wait until the next General Election. I have to ask you directly to heed the advice in the CCC's report and reclaim the UK's clear climate leadership role.

Our children will not forgive us if we leave them a world of withering heat and devastating storms where sea level rises and extreme temperatures force millions to move because their countries are no longer habitable. None of us can avoid our responsibility. Delay is not an option.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Deben".

Lord Deben
Chair, Climate Change Committee

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w theccc.org.uk