



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

Department of Energy & Climate Change
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Dear Mrs Charles,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 September, to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, about the climate change. I apologise for the delay in replying.

Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our world. It is not just a threat to the environment. It is also a threat to national and global security, poverty eradication and economic prosperity.

A global deal will help ensure cost effective action, at a scale necessary and create a level playing field; and as a leader in green technology and innovation, our economy and competitiveness arguably benefit more from a global deal than they would without one.

This is why the UK and other countries are working hard to agree an ambitious global agreement on climate change in Paris later this year - which keeps the internationally agreed goal to limit the average global temperature increase to below 2°C within reach. It is not only Governments who want this deal – there is huge support for it from NGOs, campaign groups, but also from business.

The transition to a low carbon global economy will involve a range of substantial adjustments in production and consumption. We recognise the importance of ensuring the transition is as orderly as possible, and that all associated risks are managed properly.

The Government believes that investment decisions are primarily matters for the market to determine; and recognises that significant investment is needed to develop new sources of energy to meet growing global demand as the world transitions to a low carbon economy.

The Government is committed to tackling climate change, while ensuring our energy remains secure and affordable. We are clear that these priorities are compatible.

We are fully committed to reducing domestic and global emissions and we will continue to push for an ambitious global climate change deal in Paris this December. In the UK, we need to continue the shift towards becoming a low-carbon economy – both to meet our climate goals, and to provide security of supply in the long term.

But we will continue to monitor the risks and opportunities associated with the transition to a low carbon economy and welcome the continuing work by the Bank of England in this area.

The UK government is working with international counterparts to secure an ambitious climate change deal – and continue to encourage others to come forward with ambitious commitments. However, a deal in Paris is not the end of the story and 2016, will be an important year as the UK work's with others to implement a global climate change agreement.

I hope that this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

DECC Correspondence Unit