

## ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring December 2020

This document is tailored to provide a monthly overview of key activity, debates, questions, reports, PMQs, speeches and bills relevant to the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

### Key dates

07 January: House returns

### Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
17/12/20	Press release	MHCLG	<b>Landmark devolution deal for West Yorkshire laid in Parliament</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>

### Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

### Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
4/12/20	Written Q&A	Treasury	<b>Hospitality Industry and Retail Trade: Non-domestic Rates – UIN 121375</b> <a href="#">Marco Longhi (Dudley North/Cons)</a> To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the (a) administrative and (b) financial burden of business rates on retail and hospitality businesses once the business rates holiday expires in April 2021. <a href="#">Jesse Norman (Hereford and South Herefordshire/Cons)</a> The Government has supported retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England with over £10 billion of business rates relief. It will continue to look at how to adjust its support in a way that ensures people can get back to work, protecting both the UK economy and the livelihoods of people across the country. The Government is conducting a fundamental review of business rates and will outline plans for future business rates reliefs in the New Year. <a href="#">More here</a>
10/12/20	Debate	HoC	<b>The Future of the High Street - Volume 685</b> <a href="#">The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Kelly Tolhurst)</a>

			That this House has considered the future of the high street. There is no shying away from the fact that this pandemic has clearly had a devastating impact on the great British high street and on the businesses that occupy it. <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
11/12/20	Press release	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	<b>Combined Authority sets out priority locations for regeneration and urban renewal Towns and areas across West Yorkshire named as new Spatial Priority Areas</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
15/12/20	Oral answers	HoL	<b>Green Economic Recovery</b> Volume 808 <b>Baroness Ritchie Of Downpatrick:</b> To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to promote a green economic recovery in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. <b>Lord Callanan (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy):</b> My Lords, as we rebuild, we must build back greener. Last month, the Prime Minister announced our Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, spanning clean energy, buildings, transport, nature and innovative technologies. The plan will mobilise £12 billion of government investment to unlock three times as much private sector investment by 2030, level up regions across the UK, and support up to 90,000 highly skilled green jobs. <b>Baroness Ritchie Of Downpatrick (Non-Affl):</b> Further to that, could the Minister outline what consideration the Government have given to the incorporation of a national retrofit strategy as a key infrastructure priority and a core element of their industrial strategy? <a href="#">More here</a>
17/12/20	Press Release	LGA	<b>LGA Refocused Sector-Led Improvement Offer: Highlights and Summary (March-September 2020)</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
21/12/20	Press release	IFS	<b>Changing consumer behaviour has big implications for councils, not just businesses, and especially for those in major cities. <a href="#">Here</a></b>

### Energy projects – local authority

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates.

## Environment – 25 year environment plan/Bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
4/12/20	Written Q&A	Treasury	<p><b>Recycling - UIN 121046</b>  <b>Alexander Stafford (Rother Valley):</b> To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to help ensure the development of a circular economy through the National Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p><b>Kemi Badenoch (Saffron Walden):</b> As set out in the National Infrastructure Strategy, waste tracking technology is the future of a high-tech circular economy underpinned by world class digital infrastructure, and will ensure that all waste movements across our economy can be tracked, supporting resource efficiency as well as informing sustainable future infrastructure investment. Full details can be found in the strategy - <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-strategy">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-strategy</a>.</p> <p>This SR will also ensure progress in implementing flagship Environment Bill measures including extended producer responsibility for packaging waste, the introduction of a deposit return scheme, and consistent collection of waste – including food waste – in every local authority in England. <a href="#">Here</a></p>

## Environment – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
27/11/20	Oral question	Defra	<p><b>Poor Air Quality: BAME Communities – UIN 909304</b>  <b>Fleur Anderson (Putney, Lab):</b> What assessment his Department has made of the extent to which poor air quality may disproportionately affect BAME communities.</p> <p><b>The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, George Eustice:</b> Air pollution can be harmful to everyone; however, some people are more affected than others. My Department has commissioned research into inequalities of exposure to air pollution, and monitors emerging evidence investigating air-quality impacts on BAME communities. That research has shown that those BAME groups are disproportionately affected by poor air quality, partly because larger numbers of BAME people live in urban</p>

			areas where air pollution tends to be worse. <a href="#">More here</a>
30/11/20	Press release	Efra select committee	<a href="#">Neil Parish (Tiverton &amp; Honiton, Con):</a> <b>Ministers can help deliver their climate ambition to improve the nation's air quality.</b> <a href="#">More here</a>
14/12/20	Press release	Mayor of London's Office	<b>New network of sensors to tackle toxic air pollution across London</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
16/12/20	Press Release	British Safety Council	<b>Government must now enshrine in UK law the WHO air pollution limits following the verdict in the inquest of Ella Kissi-Debrah</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a>
22/12/20	Questions	HoL/DfT	<b>Aviation: Air Pollution - UINHL11423</b> <a href="#">Lord Oates (LD):</a> To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on the climate from indirect warming caused by condensation trails from cruising aircraft. <a href="#">Baroness Vere Of Norbiton (Con):</a> The recent publication "The Contribution of global aviation to anthropogenic climate forcing for 2000 to 2018" by Lee et al., 2020 presents the most up to date scientific analysis of aviation 's climate impacts, including contrails. The publication shows that contrail cirrus formation accounts for a large proportion of aviation 's climate impact, however large uncertainties remain in determining the climate effects of contrail formation. As stated in the 2018 Aviation 2050 consultation, the Government will continue to keep non-CO 2 emissions from aviation under review and adjust its policy as more evidence becomes available. I will place a copy of "The Contribution of global aviation to anthropogenic climate forcing for 2000 to 2018" by Lee et al., 2020 in the libraries of both Houses. <a href="#">Here</a>
22/12/20	Questions	HoL/DfT	<b>Aviation: Air Pollution - UIN HL11427</b> <a href="#">Lord Oates (LD):</a> To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review the regulatory framework for climate impact offsetting to account for both the direct and indirect climate impact of aviation. <a href="#">Baroness Vere Of Norbiton (Con):</a> As a contracting state of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) the UK will participate in the globally agreed Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) from January 2021. Under the scheme, aeroplane operators on routes between participating states will be required to

			offset the CO 2 emissions above 2019 levels by purchasing and cancelling approved offset credits. Currently, CORSIA only applies to CO 2 emissions. Due to the uncertainties surrounding aviation's non-CO 2 climate impacts, ICAO does not include these in its climate policies. The UK played an instrumental role in agreeing CORSIA through ICAO and continues to negotiate for greater environmental integrity within the scheme. <a href="#">Here</a>

## Environment – climate change & net zero

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
27/11/20	Debate	HoC	<b>Climate Change Assembly UK: The Path to Net Zero Vol 684</b> <a href="#">Darren Jones (Bristol North West, Lab)</a> I beg to move, that this House welcomes the report of Climate Assembly UK; gives thanks to the citizens who gave up their time to inform the work of select committees, the development of policy and the wider public debate; and calls on the Government to take note of the recommendations of the Assembly as it develops the policies necessary to achieve the target of net zero emissions by 2050. <a href="#">More here</a>
27/11/20	Written question	BEIS	<b>Carbon Emissions: Public Expenditure and Infrastructure - UIN 117400</b> <a href="#">Alexander Stafford (Rother Valley, Con)</a> : To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will introduce a net zero test for all infrastructure policy and spending decisions made by his Department. <a href="#">Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne, Con)</a> : The UK's climate change framework enables the Government to determine how best to balance emissions reductions across the economy. Any net emissions increase from infrastructure projects are managed within the Government's overall strategy for meeting carbon budgets and the 2050 net zero target, as part of an economy-wide transition. <a href="#">Here</a>
30/11/20	Speech	BEIS	<b>Speech by Business Secretary Alok Sharma at the Green Alliance's "Making it Count" event on working together to put us on course for a clean resilient age.</b> <a href="#">More here</a>
30/11/20s	Written question	HoL/BEIS	<b>Climate Change Convention - HL10371</b> <a href="#">Baroness Ritchie Of Downpatrick (non-affiliated)</a> : To ask Her Majesty's Government

			<p>what progress they have made with preparations for COP26 in November 2021. <b>Lord Callanan (Con):</b> Planning for COP26 is ongoing and we are continuing to work closely with the venues and our delivery partners to ensure that we deliver the facilities and logistics needed for the event, in line with the requirements outlined by the UNFCCC. Alongside summit preparations, the COP26 President, Ministers, and senior officials have been engaging with a wide range of UK and international partners. COP26 presents an unprecedented opportunity to come together as a country to tackle the threat of climate change. That is why we have launched the 'Together for our Planet' campaign, to raise public awareness of COP26 and the UK's Presidency. The UK, UN and France will also co-host a Climate Ambition Summit alongside our partners Italy and Chile, on 12th December 2020 on the fifth anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement. This will be an opportunity for countries to announce ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and net zero, finance and adaptation commitments.</p> <p>The recent net zero commitments from China, Japan and South Korea have provided welcome momentum and we hope that the Ambition Summit provides impetus for further commitments by the end of the year. Another key preparation that took place on Friday 27 th November was the first meeting of the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council. It was here that Ministers and representatives from some of the world's largest and most progressive car markets came together to discuss how they can work together to make the transition cheaper, easier, and faster for all. Following the meeting, a joint statement of intent was released, see here: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-of-the-zero-emission-vehicle-transition-council">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-of-the-zero-emission-vehicle-transition-council</a>. <b>Here</b></p>
01/12/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p><b>Housing: Construction - UIN 121116</b>  <b>Dr Alan Whitehead (Southampton, Test, Lab):</b> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will make it his policy to introduce planning regulations to require new build homes to (a) be zero carbon and (b) have built in domestic renewables</p>

			<p>which generate at least 50 per cent of that home's energy needs by December 2023.</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Christopher Pincher (Tamworth, Con)</a></u></b>: I refer the Hon. Member to my answer to Question 121115 on 1 December. I will add that the Government remains committed to meeting its target of net zero emissions by 2050 and recognises the important contribution that the energy efficiency of buildings has to make in meeting it. National Planning Policy expects that local authorities should adopt proactive strategies to reduce carbon emissions, recognising the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008. There are provisions in the Planning and Energy Act 2008 that allow development plan policies to impose reasonable requirements for renewable energy use. This means that a proportion of energy used in development in their areas can be energy from renewable sources and/or be low carbon energy from sources in the locality of the development. <b><u><a href="#">Here</a></u></b></p>
01/12/20	Oral answers	Treasury	<p><b>Net Zero Carbon Economy</b></p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Matthew Pennycook (Greenwich and Woolwich, Lab)</a></u></b>: What fiscal steps he is taking to help achieve a net zero carbon economy. UIN 909605</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Mr Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield) (Lab/Co-op)</a></u></b>: What steps he is taking to ensure that his fiscal policy incentivises environmentally positive behaviour. UIN 909607</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Kemi Badenoch (Saffron Walden, Con)</a></u></b></p> <p>The Chancellor's announcement at the spending review will help us meet our net zero 2050 target by providing the right incentives for individuals and businesses. The spending review commits £12 billion of public investment, kick-starting our transition to net zero and boosting the UK's global leadership on green infrastructure and technologies ahead of COP26 next year. It also included funding that will encourage protection of the natural environment, including for planting trees, restoring peatland, creating natural habitats and investing in national parks.</p> <p><b><u><a href="#">More Here</a></u></b></p>
02/12/20	Written question	BEIS	<p><b>Business: Electricity and Hydrogen - UIN 120154</b></p> <p><b><u><a href="#">Marco Longhi (Dudley North, Con)</a></u></b>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment his</p>

			<p>Department has made of the potential merits for businesses of using (a) hydrogen and (b) electricity as a fuel source.</p> <p><b><u>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spellthorne, Con):</u></b> There are a range of fuels and technologies that could play an important role in decarbonising energy use for business and industry including hydrogen, electrification, heat networks and biogas. Our understanding of the respective roles of hydrogen and electricity continues to develop informed by internal and external analysis, innovation and demonstrator projects.</p> <p>We already have a number of policies and programmes that support business and industry to decarbonise, including Climate Change Agreements, energy audits under the Energy Saving Opportunities Scheme (ESOS), the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund and the Industrial Heat Recovery Support Programme, as well as our wide-reaching Energy Innovation Programme. For example, the £20m Industrial Fuel Switching competition aims to stimulate early investment in fuel switching processes and technologies, such as biomass, hydrogen and electricity, as part of our innovation programme to support the decarbonisation of heavy industry. <b><u>Here</u></b></p>
03/12/20	Letter	BEIS/CCC	<p>Correspondence between the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Alok Sharma, to the Chair of the Climate Change Committee, Lord Deben, regarding the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution. <b><u>Here</u></b></p>
03/12/20	Question	HoL/BEIS	<p><b>Renewable Energy - HL10505</b></p> <p><b><u>Lord Foster Of Bath (LD):</u></b> To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of local renewable energy supply in (1) achieving net zero carbon emission targets, and (2) reducing emissions of CO2.</p> <p><b><u>Lord Callanan (Con):</u></b> Renewable electricity generation has more than quadrupled since 2010 and low carbon electricity now gives us over 50 percent of our total. We have the world's largest offshore wind capacity (a third of the global total) and auction prices for future offshore wind projects fell by two-thirds between the 2015 and 2019 Contracts for Difference auctions.</p> <p>We are working to deliver an ambitious Energy White Paper that addresses the</p>



			<p>transformation of the energy system consistent with delivering our net zero target. Small-scale low-carbon electricity generation is supported by the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG), which came into force on 1 January 2020. The SEG gives small generators, such as homes with solar panels, the right to be paid for the renewable electricity they export to the grid. It reflects our continued commitment to ensuring that low carbon electricity is central to the transition to the smart and flexible energy systems of the future.</p> <p>We are continuing to offer support to communities who want to generate energy locally through the Rural Community Energy Fund. RCEF provides funding to rural communities for feasibility studies and pre-development of renewable energy projects. In addition, the Government supports the deployment of low carbon heat through a number of different mechanisms, including through local heat networks which will play an important part in meeting our net zero targets.</p> <p>Provisional BEIS estimates suggest that overall emissions fell by 14.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) (3.9 per cent) to 351.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub> between 2018 and 2019, driven mainly by the changes in the fuel mix used for electricity generation (as published in March 2020). <a href="#">Here</a></p>
03/12/20	Question	BEIS	<p><b>Carbon Emissions: Young People - UIN 122684</b></p> <p><a href="#">Andrea Leadsom (South Northamptonshire, Con)</a>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to provide digital resources for young people to better understand and reduce their own carbon footprint.</p> <p><a href="#">Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne, Con)</a>: It will be vitally important to engage the public on the challenge of meeting our net zero target, including specifically with young people. In October 2020, I spoke at the first UK Youth Against Carbon Conference to listen to young people concerned about climate change and highlight to them how the UK will continue to work towards a net zero target for all of society.</p> <p>In July 2020, we also launched the 'Involved' Instagram page, to invite young</p>

			<p>people across the country to share their views on key issues such as climate change with the Government by asking questions through the app's polling and stories. Responses will feed directly public consultations and wider policy making. The Government has welcomed the final report from the Climate Assembly UK and will be looking closely at the report's findings. The members were selected to be broadly representative of the UK population, which means that nearly 1 in 4 of its members were young people sharing their views on how we should reach net zero.</p> <p>The Government has funded several digital tools that can help people reduce their carbon footprint, including the 'Simple Energy Advice' service on how to reduce energy use in the home, and the 'Go Ultra Low' website, providing information on Electric Cars &amp; Vans. Together for Our Planet, our revitalised domestic climate campaign, will aim to engage the whole country in the conversation around climate change. In the run up to the summit, we'll be working closely with young people, schools, civil society groups, businesses and people across the UK as part of our conversation on tackling climate change. <a href="#">Here</a></p>
03/12/20	Oral answers	DfT	<p><b>Transport Decarbonisation – Vol 685</b>  <a href="#">Steven Bonnar (Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill, SNP)</a> and <a href="#">Kenny MacAskill (East Lothian, SNP)</a></p> <p>What recent assessment his Department has made of the implications for his policies of (a) opportunities and (b) requirements for transport decarbonisation to achieve the Government's net zero carbon emissions target. 909705</p> <p><b><a href="#">The Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Shapps (Welwyn Hatfield, Con):</a></b>  Our forthcoming transport decarbonisation plan will set out a credible pathway to achieving net zero emissions across transport by 2050. 909707 <a href="#">More here</a></p>
04/12/10	Question	HoL/BEIS	<p><b>Renewable Energy - UIN HL10505</b>  <a href="#">Lord Foster Of Bath (LD):</a> To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the role of local renewable energy supply in (1) achieving net zero carbon emission targets, and (2) reducing emissions of CO2.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Lord Callanan (Con):</a></b> Renewable electricity generation has more than quadrupled</p>

			<p>since 2010 and low carbon electricity now gives us over 50 percent of our total. We have the world's largest offshore wind capacity (a third of the global total) and auction prices for future offshore wind projects fell by two-thirds between the 2015 and 2019 Contracts for Difference auctions. We are working to deliver an ambitious Energy White Paper that addresses the transformation of the energy system consistent with delivering our net zero target.</p> <p>Small-scale low-carbon electricity generation is supported by the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG), which came into force on 1 January 2020. The SEG gives small generators, such as homes with solar panels, the right to be paid for the renewable electricity they export to the grid. It reflects our continued commitment to ensuring that low carbon electricity is central to the transition to the smart and flexible energy systems of the future. We are continuing to offer support to communities who want to generate energy locally through the Rural Community Energy Fund. RCEF provides funding to rural communities for feasibility studies and pre-development of renewable energy projects.</p> <p>In addition, the Government supports the deployment of low carbon heat through a number of different mechanisms, including through local heat networks which will play an important part in meeting our net zero targets.</p> <p>Provisional BEIS estimates suggest that overall emissions fell by 14.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO<sub>2</sub>) (3.9 per cent) to 351.5 MtCO<sub>2</sub> between 2018 and 2019, driven mainly by the changes in the fuel mix used for electricity generation (as published in March 2020). <a href="#">Here</a></p>
4/12/20	Oral question	HoC	<p><b>Transport Decarbonisation</b> – UIN 909705 &amp; UIN 909707</p> <p><b><a href="#">Steven Bonnar, Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill (SNP)</a> and <a href="#">Kenny MacAskill, East Lothian (SNP)</a>:</b></p> <p>What recent assessment his Department has made of the implications for his policies of (a) opportunities and (b) requirements for transport decarbonisation to achieve the Government's net zero carbon emissions target.</p>

			<p><b><a href="#">The Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps:</a></b> Our forthcoming transport decarbonisation plan will set out a credible pathway to achieving net zero emissions across transport by 2050. <b><a href="#">Full answer here.</a></b></p>
7/12/20	Press Release	DEFRA	<p><b>£3.9 million to drive innovative tree planting</b> A cash boost of nearly £4 million to plant more trees up and down the country has been announced by the government today <b><a href="#">Full details here.</a></b></p>
7/12/20	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p><b>Geothermal Power - UIN HL10618</b> <b><a href="#">Lord Judd:</a></b> To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to develop opportunities for geothermal energy generation to help address climate change. <b><a href="#">Lord Callanan:</a></b> Opportunities for geothermal electricity generation in the UK are limited and only likely to be economically feasible in certain locations, such as the far South West of England. The Government is supporting the development of the United Downs Deep Geothermal Project in Cornwall. The most promising use of geothermal energy in the UK is for low temperature applications such as district heating schemes. BEIS has been providing support to the deployment of district heat networks from geothermal through the Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) and the Heat Networks Investment Project (HNIP). We also announced a further £270m from 2022 to 2025 in the Green Heat Network Fund at the March budget and we will be consulting on eligibility criteria in due course. <b><a href="#">Here</a></b></p>
9/12/20	Oral questions	HoL	<p><b>Heat and Building Strategy <a href="#">Volume 808</a></b> <b><a href="#">Lord Best:</a></b> To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the answer by Lord Callanan on 2 July (HL Deb, col 802), when they plan to publish the heat and building strategy. <b><a href="#">Baroness Bloomfield Of Hinton Waldrist (Con):</a></b>This is a key policy of the Government. We will publish a heat and building strategy in early 2021 that will set out the immediate actions we will take for reducing emissions from buildings, including deploying energy-efficient measures and transitioning to low-carbon heating. This ambitious programme of work will enable the mass transition to low-carbon heat and set us on a path to meet our net-zero 2050 emissions targets. <b><a href="#">More here</a></b></p>

10/12/20	Press release	DEFRA	<b>800,000 trees set to be planted as Green Recovery Challenge Fund projects announced</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
10/12/20	Press Release	UKGBC	<b>UKGBC to unite industry to plot route to net zero</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
11/12/20	Press Release	OFGEM	<b>Decision making for future energy systems</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
14/12/20	Press Release	PMO	<b>PM announces the UK will end support for fossil fuel sector overseas</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
14/12/20	Press release	BEIS	<b>Government sets out plans for clean energy system and green jobs boom to build back greener</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
14/12/20	Press Release	LGA	<b>Climate-related incidents affecting eight in ten councils - LGA research</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
14/12/20	Report	BEIS	<b>Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future</b> The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published its Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future. <a href="#">Full document here</a>
16/12/20	Written Ministerial Statement	BEIS	<b>BEIS: Climate Ambition Summit 2020</b> Statement made by Alok Sharma, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
17/12/20	Press Release	Treasury	<b>Net Zero Review publishes initial analysis of green transition</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
17/12/20E	Written question	DCMS	<b>Digital Technology: Carbon Emissions - UIN 128961</b> <a href="#">Chi Onwurah, Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Lab)</a> : To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to the Royal Society 's report entitled, Digital Technology and the Planet, published on 3 December 2020, what plans he has to ensure that tech firms (a) publicly share emissions data and (b) maximise use of renewable energy. <a href="#">Caroline Dinenage, Gosport (Con)</a> : I note and welcome the valuable insights in the Royal Society's report, and are considering its recommendations. Many tech companies have ambitious decarbonisation pledges, are the world's largest investors in renewable energy, and have allocated significant resources to research and development of climate solutions. They have set ambitious net zero commitments and many have adopted robust action plans to fulfil them.

			<p>In the run-up to COP26, we are preparing to engage the entire UK tech sector, including big tech, on the potential for tech to contribute to tackling climate change. The UK has a thriving cleantech startup scene, and London is the fastest growing global hub for 'impact tech' - companies that develop tech solutions addressing one or more of the UN 's 17 Sustainable Development Goals. In my Department's work with the tech sector, reducing emissions from the digital and tech sectors is a high priority, and we are looking to build on the work of a number of tech companies already innovating in this space.</p> <p>I welcome the Royal Society 's recommendations and look forward to exploring whether there is more that the UK tech sector can do to address this extremely important challenge. <a href="#">Here</a></p>
18/12/20	Written question	DfT	<p><b>Transport: Biofuels - UIN 130244</b></p> <p><b><a href="#">Marco Longhi, Dudley North (Con):</a></b> To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment has he made of the effect on transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 of the introduction of biofuels in the (a) automotive sector and (b) rail sector.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con):</a></b> Low carbon fuels, including biofuels, play a significant role in decarbonising road transport. The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), a certificate trading scheme, has been successful since 2008 in supporting a UK market for renewable fuels. In 2019, biofuel supplied under the RTFO saved 5,368kt of CO2 emissions; the equivalent of taking 2.3 million vehicles off the road for a full year. Low carbon fuels will continue to contribute to meeting UK carbon budgets for decades to come, initially from conventional road vehicles but gradually shifting to heavier sectors such as aviation. Biofuels are currently used in rail and are supported under the RTFO. In future assessments of long-term biofuel use in rail, we will consider the likely need for biofuels in other sectors, their potentially limited supply, and the existence of other viable low-carbon options available for powering trains.</p> <p>In March 2020 the Department launched the consultation 'Introducing E10 Petrol'</p>

			<p>which proposed introducing petrol that contains up to 10% bioethanol, an increase from the current level of up to 5%. We are working hard to publish the Government Response as quickly as possible, and anticipate that any requirement to provide E10 would come into force in 2021. If combined with an increase in RTFO targets, the introduction of E10 could reduce CO2 emissions from road transport by a further 750,000 tonnes per year. This would be the equivalent of taking around 350,000 cars off the road. <a href="#">Here</a></p>
18/12/20	Written question	BEIS	<p><b>Carbon Emissions - UIN 127619</b>  <a href="#">Darren Jones, Bristol North West (Lab)</a>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the letter on Climate Assembly UK he received from six select committee Chairs dated 10 September 2020, whether he plans to publish a response before Christmas 2020 to the recommendations of Climate Assembly UK's report entitled, The Path to Net Zero, published on 10 September 2020.</p> <p><a href="#">Kwasi Kwarteng, Spelthorne (Con)</a>: My Rt. Hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy spoke at the launch event of the Climate Assembly UK report on 10 September and welcomed its findings. My Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister responded to both the interim and the final Climate Assembly UK reports via letters to the six select committees. We are working closely with Climate Assembly UK to ensure that government departments are familiar with their findings. We invited the Climate Assembly UK's expert leads to present the recommendations via seven briefings for officials from across government that took place between 14 and 24 September and covered all the policy areas discussed in the report. The report's recommendations are an important part of the evidence base for developing the Government's Net Zero Strategy, which will be published in 2021. <a href="#">Here</a></p>
21/12/20	Press release	IFS	<p><b>The law of averages cannot apply to our pursuit of a net zero future</b> <a href="#">Here</a></p>
21/12/20	Letter from EAC to BEIS	EAC	<p><b>MPs turn up the heat on Government's ambitions to install 600,000 heat pumps every year</b> <a href="#">here</a></p>
22/12/20	Written question	DfT	<p><b>Aviation: Environment Protection - UIN 130116</b></p>

			<p><b><u>Dr Philippa Whitford Central Ayrshire (SNP):</u></b> To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps the Government will take to ensure a green aviation recovery.</p> <p><b><u>Robert Courts, Witney (Con):</u></b> We are considering the future of the sector in terms of sustainability. The aviation sector must be a green one that creates high quality, skilled jobs. The Jet Zero Council has now set out ambitions on sustainable aviation fuel, zero-emission aviation and aerospace technologies.</p> <p>Following the successful implementation of our aviation restart measures, the government will then put forward its strategic framework for the medium and long term recovery of the aviation sector, and set out a pathway for recovery to sustainable growth. We will be consulting on our position on aviation and climate change in the new year. <a href="#">Here</a></p>
22/12/20	Written question	DCMS	<p><b>Digital Technology: Carbon Emissions – U*IN 128962</b></p> <p><b><u>Chi Onwurah, Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Lab):</u></b> To ask the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, with reference to the Royal Society 's report entitled, Digital Technology and the Planet, published on 3 December 2020, what plans he has to establish (a) frameworks for collecting, sharing and using data for net zero applications and (b) a taskforce for digitalisation of the net zero transition.</p> <p><b><u>Mr John Whittingdale, Maldon (Con):</u></b> As set out in the Prime Minister 's recent Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, now is the time to take bold steps to tackle climate change, and officials are working across Government to ensure we are delivering on this in a coordinated fashion. We welcome the Royal Society 's contribution and are currently considering the recommendations in their report. The National Data Strategy, published this September, recognises the potential for better data use to contribute towards finding solutions to the climate crisis, including by supporting the UK's net zero target for 2050. The consultation on the strategy included a question on Government's role in ensuring data does not negatively contribute to carbon usage. We are currently in the process of analysing consultation responses and will update on next steps in due course. <a href="#">Here</a></p>



22/12/20	Question	HoL/Defras	<p><b>Biodiversity and Climate Change - UIN HL11121 &amp; HL11122</b></p> <p><b><u>Lord Greaves (LD):</u></b> To ask Her Majesty's Government how they prioritise measures to address issues relating to (1) climate change, and (2) biodiversity; whether more priority is given to one over the other; and if so, how they decide the differing level of priority.</p> <p>AND To ask Her Majesty's Government how they prioritise measures (1) to reduce carbon emissions, and (2) to conserve habitats; whether more priority is given to one over the other; and if so, how they decide the differing level of priority.</p> <p><b><u>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park (Con):</u></b> The climate and biodiversity crises are linked, and this Government believes they have to be tackled together. Globally, climate change is the third biggest driver of biodiversity loss, while biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation further exacerbate climate change - releasing stored carbon into the atmosphere and reducing our ability to adapt to a changing climate.</p> <p>As we develop our plans to deliver our world-leading net zero target at home, we will need to progress climate change and biodiversity objectives together. For example, we will need to balance land use change for mitigation purposes such as planting trees, with enhancing the natural environment and improving food security. Defra and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy are working closely together to ensure that this balance is met. The Government has introduced significant new funding for nature restoration to address climate change, but this does not detract from our biodiversity goals - the funding is additional and complementary. We prioritise funding for ecosystems that provide the greatest contribution to our emissions targets, following the underlying science. Our assessment is that, on land, restoring degraded peatlands and appropriately creating and managing multi-purpose woodlands will offer the greatest benefits for tackling climate change, while also contributing to biodiversity goals, addressing these challenges together. Our Nature for Climate Fund is therefore providing £640 million over the course of this Parliament for the creation, restoration</p>
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			<p>and management of woodland and peatland habitats.</p> <p>We have a range of funding streams that support conservation of other habitats and wider biodiversity goals. This includes agri-environment schemes and green recovery funds, where the contribution to biodiversity, as well as wider environmental outcomes, is used to prioritise funding. Research suggests that, globally, nature based solutions could provide up to a third of the most cost-effective carbon mitigation, but despite that, only around 3% of international climate finance is invested in nature. We believe there is a need for a significant increase in support for nature based solutions, which is why we have put nature at the heart of our climate ambitions – domestically and internationally. <a href="#">Here</a></p>

#### Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
27/11/20	Oral question	Defra	<p><b>Plastic Pollution - UIN 909297</b>  <a href="#">Laura Trott (Sevenoaks, Con)</a>            What steps he is taking to reduce plastic pollution.  <b><a href="#">The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, George Eustice</a></b>            The Government have banned the use of microbeads in cosmetics and banned the use of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds, and the 5p charge for single-use plastic bags has reduced their use by 95% in the main supermarkets. We are increasing the charge to 10p and extending it to all retailers. In addition, we are seeking powers in the Environment Bill to require similar charges for single-use plastic items, to make recycling collections more consistent and to reform packaging producer waste responsibility schemes. <a href="#">More here</a></p>
30/11/20	Written question	Defra	<p><b>Packaging: Recycling - UIN 120887</b>  <a href="#">Patrick Grady (Glasgow North, SNP)</a>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department has taken to reform the Packaging Recovery Note scheme to (a) levy costs on packaging producers and (b) reward recycling.  <a href="#">Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane, Con)</a>: We committed in our 2018 Resources and</p>

			<p>Waste Strategy to reform the UK's current packaging producer responsibility system and to introduce measures to incentivise packaging producers to make better, more sustainable design decisions and require them to fund the full net costs of managing packaging once it becomes waste, including collection, recycling and disposal costs.</p> <p>In reforming the current system, the Government's aim is to reduce the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle packaging and increase the amount and quality of packaging that can be and is recycled. Measures being considered to drive and reward increased recycling through the reformed system include setting recycling targets on producers, and setting producer 'disposal' cost fees based on the design and recyclability of packaging. We are taking new powers in the Environment Bill to enable us to introduce these reforms and to place more responsibility on producers for products at end of life. We plan to undertake a second consultation on these reforms in 2021. <a href="#">Here</a></p>
7/12/20	Written question	DEFRA	<p><b>Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal - UIN 121836</b>  <a href="#">Dr Matthew Offord, Hendon (Con)</a>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will introduce a statutory duty to extend the range of residential waste collected by local authorities to include aggregates, rubber and household chemicals. [121836]  <a href="#">Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con)</a>:  Householders are already able to deposit aggregates, rubber and some household chemicals at Household Waste Recycling Centres. In accordance with the Controlled Waste Regulations 2012, householders can also arrange for collections with their local authority where they want to dispose of items of waste that exceed 25kg or cannot be contained within a receptacle for household waste provided.  We want to increase recycling of waste and reduce what is sent to landfill or energy recovery. We have legislated in the Environment Bill to require separate collection of six recyclable waste streams from households including glass, metal, plastics, paper and card and food and</p>

			<p>garden waste. We will consult further on these measures in 2021. In the Resources and Waste Strategy the Government committed to investigate extending the role of Household Waste Recycling Centres as necessary to have in place arrangements for the collection of hazardous household waste by 2025. This would be subject to consultation and assessment of potential for new burdens. <a href="#">Here</a></p>
8/12/20	Written Q&A	Defra	<p><b>Food: Waste - UIN 122750</b>  <a href="#">Dr Lisa Cameron, East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (SNP)</a>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the 2019 Food Waste Strategy on levels of food waste from major retailers. [122750]  <a href="#">Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con)</a>: The UK Government has not published a 2019 Food Waste Strategy. The hon. Member's question may refer to the Scottish Government 's Food Waste Reduction Action Plan from 2019. The following answer describes other strategic documents which are relevant to the question.  In 2019, Defra commissioned Henry Dimbleby, its lead Non-Executive Director, to lead an independent review of the food system to develop recommendations to shape a National Food Strategy. Part One was published in July 2020, with Part Two due in Spring 2021.</p> <p>To help tackle food waste, Defra and the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) launched the UK Food Waste Reduction Roadmap (FWRR) in September 2018. The roadmap sets out a clear direction for what all large businesses in the UK need to achieve in order for us to achieve our international targets for food waste reduction and provides a basis to track progress. It also allows a wider population of food businesses to show their commitment to implementing the Target, Measure, Act (TMA) approach.  The Resources and Waste Strategy (published in December 2018) sets out the Government's approach to tackling food waste, building on the direction set out in the FWRR. The 2020 annual progress</p>

			<p>report for the FWRR, published by WRAP and industry experts IGD, shows growing adoption of the TMA approach to food waste prevention with more than 70 new organisations committing to the Roadmap in the last twelve months. Following support from respondents to our public consultation on increasing consistency in recycling, we are legislating through the Environment Bill to ensure that businesses and other organisations in England will be required to arrange for the collection of a core set of materials for recycling, including a separate food waste collection where this material is produced. We will be consulting further on this in 2021. We also committed in the Resources and Waste Strategy to consult to introduce mandatory reporting of food waste by businesses. We are currently engaging with industry and related stakeholders to inform the development of this consultation. <a href="#">Here</a></p>
21/12/20	Written question	Defra	<p><b>Plastics - UIN 128734</b></p> <p><b><a href="#">Daisy Cooper, St Albans (LD)</a>:</b> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will introduce a date for banning the use of all single-use non-essential plastic items.</p> <p><b><a href="#">Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con)</a>:</b> We have already introduced a restriction on the supply of plastic straws, drinks stirrers and cotton buds from October this year. In addition, we are scoping out additional items for which a ban would be a suitable and proportionate measure. The Environment Bill will also allow us to tackle problematic plastics through a variety of policy measures, including measures to impose charges on single-use plastic items; introduce a deposit return scheme for drinks containers; and make producers cover the costs of collecting and managing plastic packaging waste. Generally, we prefer to help people and businesses make more sustainable choices, for example through better product labelling, rather than resorting to a charge or a ban. Plastic may be the best available material for some products and banning them may cause more harm than good. We expect the initiatives by industry, such as the UK Plastics Pact, combined with our reforms to work together to eliminate the most problematic plastics from use. <a href="#">Here</a></p>

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## Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
7/12/20	Press Release	Crown Estate	<b>New partnership to unlock offshore energy ambitions and protect the nation's marine environment</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
15/12/20	Oral answers	BEIS	<b>Renewable Energy: Capacity - Volume 686</b> <a href="#">Caroline Ansell, Eastbourne (Con)</a> and <a href="#">Mick Whitley, Birkenhead (Lab)</a> : What steps his Department is taking to increase the capacity of renewable energy in the UK. [910311] (910320) <a href="#">Amanda Solloway (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)</a> : The UK is a world leader in offshore wind and proud to be the home of the world's largest offshore wind farm. That is why we have increased our target to deliver 40 GW of offshore wind, quadrupling capacity by 2030, and announced £160 million to support ports and infrastructure enabling the sector to support up to 60,000 jobs... <a href="#">More here</a>
17/12/20	Debate	HoC	<b>UK Hydrogen Economy - Volume 686</b> <a href="#">Alexander Stafford, Rother Valley (Con)</a> I beg to move, That this House has considered the UK hydrogen economy. I refer the House to my entry in the Register of Members' Financial Interests. Members will be aware that only three weeks ago, I sponsored the UK Parliament's very first stand-alone debate on hydrogen, which was about hydrogen transport. I believe that it was a great success and I welcome the Minister's proactive and helpful response. It is incredibly exciting that straight off the back of that debate, I have the opportunity to broaden the scope of the conversation today to encompass the UK's hydrogen economy. It is right that I should touch on hydrogen transport, but I am keen to emphasise hydrogen's important role in home heating, the gas network and industry, and its wider economic benefits for the UK. <a href="#">Full details here.</a>

## Local government funding

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			<p><b>Local Government Services: Coronavirus - UIN 116686</b></p> <p><b><u>Navendu Mishra (Stockport, Lab):</u></b> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what plans the Government has to support local authorities to meet their statutory duties in (a) road maintenance, (b) library services and (c) waste collection in the event that the Covid-19 outbreak continues to adversely affect local authorities' finances.</p> <p><b><u>Luke Hall (Thornbury and Yate, Con):</u></b> Spending Review 2020 has been drawn up in unique circumstances. Our primary aim has been to ensure local government has the resources and stability it needs to continue to provide vital public services and tackle the pandemic. The Spending Review has confirmed that Core Spending Power is forecast to rise by 4.5 per cent in cash terms next year. This real terms increase follows the largest real terms increase in Core Spending Power for a decade at Spending Review 2019. This means local authorities will be able to access an additional £2.2 billion in resources to support Adult and Children's Social Care and maintain universal services. We will bring forward proposals for the annual local government finance settlement for 2021-22 as soon as we can.</p> <p>This is all in addition to an unprecedented package of support for local authorities to combat the Covid-19 pandemic. At the Spending Review the Chancellor announced more than £3 billion of additional support for Covid-19 pressures next year. This is on top of the support committed this financial year, including over £7.2 billion for local authorities, even before the extension of the Contain Outbreak Management Fund for those authorities under the highest level of restriction – potentially worth over £200 million a month – announced as part of the Covid-19 Winter Plan. This takes the total support committed to councils in England to tackle the impacts of Covid-19 to over £10 billion. <a href="#">Here</a></p>

4/12/20	Debates	HoL	<p><b>Spending Review 2020 - Volume 808</b>  <b><u><a href="#">The Minister of State, Cabinet Office and the Treasury. Lord Agnew of Oulton:</a></u></b>  That the Grand Committee takes note of the spending review 2020.  My Lords, a spending review is a significant moment in the life cycle of any Government. It is an opportunity to deliver on the priorities of the British people, and, despite the most challenging of backdrops, that is what this spending review achieves.  <b><u><a href="#">Full debate here.</a></u></b></p>
4/12/20	Written Q&A	MHCLG	<p><b>Towns Fund - UIN 121154</b>  <b><u><a href="#">Jon Trickett, Hemsworth (Lab):</a></u></b> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will publish the criteria for the Towns Fund selection process. [121154]  <b><u><a href="#">Luke Hall, Thornbury and Yate (Con):</a></u></b>  The National Audit Office report – the Review of the Town Deals Selection Process – sets out the Towns Fund selection process in detail, and can be found here: <a href="https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Review-of-the-Town-Deals-selection-process.pdf">https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Review-of-the-Town-Deals-selection-process.pdf</a>  <b><u><a href="#">Here</a></u></b></p>
16/12/20	Reports	Treasury	<p><b>Spending Review 2020: Provisional priority outcomes and metrics</b>  HM Treasury has published a report on the Spending Review 2020: Provisional priority outcomes and metrics.  <b><u><a href="#">Full report here</a></u></b></p>
17/12/20	Debates	HoC	<p><b>Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement – Vol 686</b>  <b>The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Robert Jenrick:</b> Today I have written to all local authorities in England thanking their councillors, officers and employees for their exceptional service this year. From carers to teachers to social workers to refuse collectors to council officers, as well as the elected members, they have worked tirelessly over the course of this pandemic to keep us safe, to provide support to the most vulnerable, to assist local businesses and to deliver public services under immense pressure. I think I speak for the whole House in saying a sincere thank you and in wishing them and their families a happy and peaceful Christmas. <b><u><a href="#">More Here</a></u></b></p>



18/12/20	Press Release	LGA	<b>LGA responds to provisional 2021/22 Local Government Finance Settlement</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a>
18/12/20	Press Release	District Councils Network	<b>District Councils' Network responds to provisional Local Government Finance Settlement</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a>
31/12/20	Question	HoL/MHCLG	<b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund - UIN HL11529</b> <b><a href="#">Lord Dodds Of Duncairn (DUP):</a></b> To ask Her Majesty's Government what recent discussions they have had about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with (1) the devolved administrations, and (2) local authorities. <b><a href="#">Lord Greenhalgh (Con):</a></b> The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will help to level up and create opportunity across the UK in places most in need such as ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities, and for people who face labour market barriers. The Fund will operate UK-wide. We will continue to engage the devolved administrations and other key stakeholders as we develop the fund's investment framework and in advance of its publication. To help local areas prepare over 2021-22 for the introduction of the UKSPF, the government will provide additional funding to support our communities to pilot programmes and new approaches. We will work closely with stakeholders on how best to use this additional funding to prepare for the introduction of the UKSPF. <a href="#">Here</a>

## Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
4/12/20	Oral question	HoL	<b>National Planning Policy Statements: Climate Change - Volume 808</b> <b><a href="#">Lord Whitty:</a></b> To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to review National Planning Policy Statements to assess whether they are aligned with the United Kingdom's commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement and section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008. <b><a href="#">The Minister of State, Home Office and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Lord Greenhalgh (Con):</a></b> National policy statements set out the planning policy framework for nationally significant infrastructure, including energy and transport. It is for relevant Secretaries of State to review their national policy

			statements whenever they consider it appropriate to do so. <a href="#">Full answer here.</a>
7/12/20	Speech	MHCLG	<b>MHCLG: Speech by Housing Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP, announcing the winners of the Home of 2030 competition in a speech at Homes UK (4 November 2020)</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a>
8/12/20	Committee Summary	MCHLG	<b>The future of the planning system in England – Summary overview</b> The session focused on the new planning system in England, with topics of discussion including the White Paper, new homes, consultations with stakeholders and meeting targets in time. <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
9/12/20	Press release	Campaign to Protect Rural England	<b>English councillors in revolt over government plans to dismantle planning system</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
16/12/20	Debate	HoC	<b>Planning for the Future - Volume 686</b> <a href="#">Sarah Olney, Richmond Park (LD):</a> I beg to move, That this House has considered the Planning for the Future White Paper. It is a pleasure to serve under your chairmanship, Sir Charles. There is a great deal to consider in the White Paper, which takes as its starting point the idea that the lack of progress in building the homes we need in this country is largely due to our system of planning controls and approval. I should declare an interest at the outset. I have been happily married to a town planner—a member of the Royal Town Planning Institute—for 18 years, which just goes to show that not all politicians are at loggerheads with town planners. I can see by the number of people who have applied to speak in the debate that the issues raised in the White Paper have generated a great deal of interest. <a href="#">Full debate here</a>
16/12/20	Written question	MHCLG	<b>Nature Conservation: Planning - UIN 126946</b> <a href="#">Liz Twist, Blaydon (Lab):</a> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what additional protections for nature will result from the reforms to the planning system set out in the Planning for the Future White Paper. <a href="#">Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con):</a> In Planning for the Future we proposed a quicker and simpler framework for assessing environmental effects: one which does not compromise on environmental standards, and indeed encourages opportunities for

			<p>environmental enhancements to be identified and pursued early in the development process. Proposals will leave an inheritance of environmental improvements with environmental assets protected, more green spaces provided, more sustainable development supported and new homes that are more energy efficient. Though we are still considering the responses to the White Paper consultation, I can assure you that legal protection for landscape, habitat and wildlife will remain in force, and reforms will support the implementation of the proposals in the Environment Bill, including the commitment to a 10 per cent biodiversity net gain requirement. Consultation on the White Paper closed on 29 October 2020. The Government will publish its response following consideration of all the feedback received. <a href="#">Here</a></p>
31/12/20	Question	HoL/MHCLG	<p><b>Environment Protection: Planning - UIN HL11623</b></p> <p><b>Baroness Thornhill (LD):</b> Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that any reforms to the planning system protect the environment.</p> <p><b>Lord Greenhalgh (Con):</b> Our proposals in Planning for the Future seek to improve environmental outcomes. This will be achieved by amending the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure that it targets those areas where a reformed planning system can most effectively play a role in mitigating and adapting to climate change and maximising environmental benefits, while protecting and enhancing the most valuable and important habitats and species in England. The Government will respond to this consultation in due course. The Environment Bill will make 10 per cent net gains for biodiversity mandatory for most new developments, and also introduce Local Nature Recovery Strategies to secure enhancements through development schemes and contributions. We have also committed to review the environmental assessment process to help promote a clean, green recovery from the effects of coronavirus, and are taking this forward as part of the Planning for the Future reforms. Environmental protection will be at the heart of this review and where possible, any new framework will go further to take</p>

			advantage of opportunities for environmental improvement. <a href="#">Here</a>

### Transport – automated & electric vehicles, hydrogen

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
27/11/20	Debate	HoC	<b>Hydrogen Transport - Vol 64</b> <a href="#">Alexander Stafford, Rother Valley, Con</a> I refer the House to my entry in the Register of Members' Financial Interests. It is a tremendous privilege to have secured today's debate on the use of hydrogen transport. It is such thrilling news because, unbelievably, this is the first dedicated debate on hydrogen to take place in the UK Parliament. We can all agree that it is long overdue. <a href="#">More here</a>
27/11/20	Press release	BEIS	<b>Joint statement of the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council:</b> A joint statement from the Zero Emission Vehicle Transition Council after their first meeting to accelerate the pace of the global transition to zero emission vehicles. <a href="#">More here</a>
02/12/20	Press release	Competition & Markets Authority	<b>CMA to examine electric vehicle charging sector:</b> <a href="#">More here</a>
8/12/20	Press Release	DfT	<b>Road to Zero in sight as green number plates introduced on UK roads</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
17/12/20	Press release	Ofgem	<b>Ofgem confirms approach to boosting green and smart investment in local grids</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>

### Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/12/20	Written question	DfT	<b>What assessment he has made of the potential merits of requiring long-distance road transport companies using heavy vehicles to contribute towards the maintenance of rural roads. UIN 909744</b> <a href="#">Jamie Stone (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross, LD)</a> : What assessment he has made of the potential merits of requiring long-distance road transport companies using heavy vehicles to contribute towards the maintenance of rural roads. [ <a href="#">Andrew Stephenson (Pendle, Con)</a> : The Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) Levy, paid by vehicles weighing over 12 tonnes for the use of any UK road since 2014, raised £204.4 million in 2019/20. The Levy is

			suspended for 12 months to 1 August 2021. <a href="#">Here</a>
03/12/20	Written question	DfT	<p><b>What steps his Department is taking to improve the condition of England's roads. UIN 909731</b></p> <p><a href="#">Suzanne Webb (Stourbridge, Con)</a> and <a href="#">Christian Wakeford (Bury South, Con)</a>: What steps his Department is taking to improve the condition of England's roads.</p> <p><a href="#">Andrew Stephenson (Pendle, Con)</a>: The Department is providing over £2.7 billion for the maintenance of England's local highway network, outside of London, over 2020/21 and 2021/22, and £4.1 billion for capital renewals on the strategic road network in England over the next 5 years. <a href="#">Full details here.</a></p>
17/12/20	Written Ministerial Statement	DfT	<p><b>DfT: Contingencies Fund Advance</b></p> <p>The Department for Transport has published a written ministerial statement on the Contingencies Fund Advance: <a href="#">More here</a></p>
			<p><b>Roads: Repairs and Maintenance - UIN 129133</b></p> <p><a href="#">Jonathan Gullis, Stoke-on-Trent North (Con)</a>: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to review the funding formula for road maintenance.</p> <p><a href="#">Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con)</a>: The Department for Transport is providing (a) Stoke-on-Trent with over £5.5 million and (b) Staffordshire with over £37 million through the Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund this financial year. It is for each Council to decide on how this funding is utilised based on their highway asset management strategy, needs, and priorities.</p> <p>In addition, Stoke-on-Trent council were successful in their £5 million 'Keep Stoke Moving' key corridor Challenge Fund bid in February this year. Staffordshire County Council also successfully bid for £2.35 million to upgrade Chetwynd Bridge, a historic Grade II* structure.</p> <p>The Department for Transport held two consultation exercises in 2014 to seek views from local highway authorities, organisations, and members of the public regarding how we allocate funding to local highway authorities. Following the consultation exercises, it was agreed that we would allocate funding to each highway authority in England, outside</p>

			London, based on road lengths and highways assets such as bridges and lighting columns for which they are responsible. This is the most fair and proportionate way to distribute this funding. <a href="#">Here</a>

#### Transport – Sub-national Transport Boards (STBs) – (eg TfN, TfSE)

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
11/12/20	Press Release	TSSA	<b>Independent TfL Report Highlights London's Raw Deal On Funding</b> TSSA General Secretary, Manuel Cortes, has said the findings of an independent review of Transport for London 's long-term funding options shows the capital is "getting a raw deal" and called for the return of the operating grant. <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
14/12/20	Press Release	TfN	<b>Transport Minister and Northern leaders to tackle how transport investment will help level-up the economy</b> <a href="#">Full details here.</a>
15/12/20	Press Release	TfN	<b>'Bold choices needed on rail to level-up our region'</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a>

#### Brexit – BEIS, Defra, MHCLG, & committees

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
9/12/20	Debate	HoC	<b>Draft Reach Etc. (Amendment etc.)</b> (EU Exit) Regulations 2020; Draft Control of mercury (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020; Draft Detergents (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020; Draft Waste and Environmental permitting Etc. (Legislative Functions and Amendment Etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020. <a href="#">Read here.</a>