

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring June 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

1 July: Deadline contained in Withdrawal Agreement for transition extension request
 8 July: Fiscal event – post-pandemic budget statement (*tbc*)
 21 July – 8 September: Summer recess
 17 September – 12 October: Party conferences
 31 December: Brexit extension period ends

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
22/06/20	Oral Evidence	HoC	Oral Evidence: Progress on Devolution in England, HC 174. here

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/06/20	EDM	HoC	Caroline Lucas: Early Day Motion That this House notes the need for Government action to support economic renewal as covid-19 restrictions are lifted; believes that this recovery must be a green recovery: here
04/06/20	Motion to consider	HoL	Motion to consider: Covid-19 – Economy That the Virtual Proceedings do consider (1) the economic lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, and (2) the measures necessary to repair the United Kingdom economy. here
09/06/20	Written question	MHCLG	Rachael Maskell (York Central) : To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, when he will determine how much funding in addition to that announced on 18 April 2020 will be made available to each local authority to respond to the covid-19 outbreak. [52174] Mr Simon Clarke (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland) : We have now made £3.2 billion available to local authorities through an un-ringfenced grant so they can address pressures they are facing in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The

			<p>package recognises the additional costs and pressures on finances councils are facing as a result of the current crisis. It demonstrates the Government's commitment to making sure councils, including upper and lower tier authorities, have the resources they need to support their communities through this challenging time.</p> <p>In total, the Government has committed over £27 billion to local areas to support councils and their communities. This also includes: £300 million to support the new test and trace service, £600 million to support providers through a new Infection Control Fund and £12.3 billion of support through the Small Business Grants Fund and the Retail, Hospitality & Leisure Grants.</p> <p>Alongside this funding, the Government has provided over £5 billion of cashflow support including the deferral of local authority payments of the Central Share of retained business rates, valued at £2.6 billion, as well as up-front payments of £1.8 billion of business rates reliefs and £850 million of social care grant.</p> <p>We will continue to work with local government and their representatives over the coming weeks to ensure they are managing as the pandemic progresses. here</p>
09/06/20	Oral question	HoL	<p>Local Government: Economy Baroness Quin: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Local Government Association on how national and local government can work together to promote economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic. here</p>
11/06/20	Press release	LGA	<p>LGA: Over a million new green jobs could be created by 2050 here</p>
11/06/20	Oral answer	HoL	<p>To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the projected level of unemployment over the next 12 months. here</p>
11/06/20	Motion to take note	HoL	<p>Covid-19: Recovery Strategies That this House takes note of the case for post-COVID-19 recovery strategies that will contribute to a fairer, cleaner, and more sustainable economy. here</p>

12/06/20	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Local Enterprise Partnerships: Coronavirus: Written question – 54154 Rachael Maskell (York Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the provision of additional funding for Local Enterprise Partnerships to support the local regeneration of the economy.</p> <p>Nadhim Zahawi (Stratford-on-Avon): Written answers Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) continue to play a crucial role in driving economic growth across the country, helping to build a country that works for everyone. That is why Government has invested heavily through the Local Growth Fund, allowing LEPs to use their local knowledge to unlock economic growth and regeneration opportunities. The March 2020 Budget confirmed up to £387 million in 2021 and 2022 for local areas to continue with existing priority Local Growth Fund projects. here</p>
12/06/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Local Government: Coronavirus: Written question - 54155 Rachael Maskell (York Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what support he is providing to local authorities to enable them to restructure their local economies after the covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Mr Simon Clarke (Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland): The Government is working with a range of local growth partners - including local authorities, mayors and Local Enterprise Partnerships in England - to coordinate our activity. I chair an Economic Recovery Working Group, providing a forum to bring together local, regional, and national thinking on recovery and discuss the challenges affecting different places.</p> <p>To support this work, the Government has now made £3.2 billion available to local authorities through an un-ringfenced grant so they can address pressures they are facing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. MHCLG has also announced a £50 million Reopening High Streets Safely</p>

			<p>Fund to address the impact of unwinding economic support schemes, and address scarring in town centres. The 2019 Conservative Manifesto committed to creating a UK Shared Prosperity Fund which binds together the whole of the United Kingdom, tackling inequality and deprivation in each of our four nations. Final decisions on the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will need to be taken after a cross-Government Spending Review, as we develop a national approach to recovery. here</p>
15/06/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Local Enterprise Partnerships: Coronavirus: Written question - 56183</p> <p>Dr Luke Evans (Bosworth): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to ensure that local enterprise partnerships play a key role in regional economic recovery after the covid-19 outbreak. [56183]</p> <p>Nadhim Zahawi (Stratford-on-Avon): The Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government chairs an Economic Recovery Working Group, bringing together representatives of local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, and Combined Authorities. This Group works with local regions to understand the full scale of the challenges they face in the short to medium-term.</p> <p>We are not starting recovery planning from a blank page. Through the Local Industrial Strategies programme, Local Enterprise Partnerships have done excellent work to develop an evidence base and to scope long-term priorities for their areas. In the short-term, we encourage partners to prioritise those issues their existing strategies –have not considered. This will include how to restart the economy whilst maintaining social distancing in line with Government guidance. here</p>
15/06/20	Oral answers	MHCLG	<p>Jane Hunt (Con) (Loughborough): What steps he is taking to support the renewal of local economies as covid-19 restrictions are eased. [903175]</p> <p>Mr Simon Clarke (The Minister of State, Ministry of Housing, Communities and</p>

			<p><u>Local Government</u>): Obviously I very much welcome the fact that today is a big moment for all our local economies as shops reopen, which is really positive news. We have given councils, businesses and communities over £27 billion thus far to support them as we move to recovery from this pandemic. That includes almost £13 billion in business grants, which has so far supported 832,000 businesses, and the £50 million reopening high streets safely fund, which the Secretary of State referred to. Today we are also publishing the guidance on the £3.6 billion towns fund, which will enable 100 places across England to make further progress with their town deals.</p> <p>Jane Hunt: I refer Members to my entry in the Register of Members' Financial Interests. I have welcomed the super announcements to help business improvement districts with various funds, to support local economies through the uncertainty of the covid-19 pandemic. This has been a vital lifeline for Love Loughborough, the BID in my constituency. Given the need to ensure that our town centres have the resources they need to get back on their feet, what further steps are being taken to support BIDs as the lockdown restrictions are eased?</p> <p>Mr Clarke: BIDs have a significant part to play in our high street regeneration programme, and they will be even more important given the setback we have all experienced during the first half of this year. That is why we have legislated to allow BIDs that were due to re-ballot this year to continue until March 2021 and have announced £6.1 million in emergency support funding for BIDs. I am pleased that the Love Loughborough BID—not one to be said unless you have a taste for tongue-twisters—will receive £12,747 from this additional fund. here</p>
16/06/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Regeneration: Written question - 54149</p> <p><u>Rachael Maskell (York Central)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what recent assessment he has made of the potential effect of investment in innovation and</p>

			skills on the regeneration of local economies. [54149] Amanda Solloway (Derby North): Innovation and skills will play a vital role in the regeneration of local economies. However, they are only part of the picture in the regeneration of local economies. We are considering how we can support the UK create good jobs, tackle weak growth and productivity, level-up our regions to deliver a UK economy which is stronger, cleaner, more sustainable and more resilient. More here
15/06/20	Press release	BEIS	Business Secretary leads economic recovery roundtables The organisations that participated in the roundtables are set out below, alongside the questions that participants were asked to address. here
25/06/20	Press release	CCC	Reducing UK emissions: 2020 Progress Report to Parliament. here
29/06/20	Press release	BEIS committee	Progress towards net zero and implications for the Covid recovery examined The Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee examines the progress towards net zero and implications for the Covid recovery, the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) 2020 Progress Report and the Climate Assembly UK Interim Report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch Parliament TV: Net zero and UN climate summits • Inquiry: Net zero and UN climate summits • Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee here

Energy – Local authority projects

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Environment – 25-year environment plan/Bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
04/06/20	Written answer	Defra	<p><u>Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Brighton, Kemptown)</u>: Q. To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to reduce the UK's global environmental footprint. [52351]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane)</u>: The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to support and protect the world's forests, support sustainable agriculture and work towards zero-deforestation supply chains.</p> <p>The UK is part of the Amsterdam Declarations Partnership that aims to eliminate deforestation from agricultural commodity chains and supports a 100% sustainable palm oil supply chain in Europe.</p> <p>Through International Climate Finance, Defra contributes to a joint pledge between the UK, Germany, and Norway to provide \$5 billion to encourage ambitious action from developing countries to protect their forests and promote more sustainable patterns of land use.</p> <p>The Government has established an independent taskforce, the Global Resource Initiative, to provide us with recommendations as to how we could support the efforts of producer countries to improve the sustainability of products and reduce deforestation. The taskforce recently published its final report that sets out an ambitious and strategic package of measures the Government could take to reduce the UK's global environmental footprint, with a focus on forest risk commodities. We will be looking carefully at the report's detailed recommendations and we will issue our formal response later this year. here</p>
16/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Protection: Written question - 57158</p> <p><u>Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will publish the timetable for the consultation on the proposed policy statement on</p>

			<p>environmental principles as set out in the Environment Bill.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): It is our intention to publish the timetable for the consultation on the proposed policy statement on environmental principles. In the meantime, the Explanatory Note published alongside the Environment Bill sets out the initial approach to the policy statement. here</p>
16/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Protection: Standards: Written question – 57162)</p> <p>Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will publish the (a) timetable and (b) process for the recruitment of independent experts to inform the development of new environmental targets as proposed in the Environment Bill . [57162]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government plans to bring forward at least one target, in each of the four priority areas, by the Environment Bill's 31st October 2022 deadline. We want to get this right so will be engaging stakeholders about our stepped approach to target setting, including the involvement of independent experts in that process.</p> <p>The target setting steps will broadly include: setting the scope of the targets; developing fully evidenced targets; public consultation on target proposals and finally drafting target legislation. We expect to publish a Target Policy Paper over the coming months which will include further details and timing about these steps. here</p>
16/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Office for Environmental Protection: Public Appointments: Written question - 57161</p> <p>Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether the Chair and other non-executive members of the proposed Office for Environmental Protection will be recruited through open competition, (b) what the timetable is for recruitment to those positions and (c) whether those positions will be filled by 1 January 2021. [57161]</p>

			<p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government intends to recruit the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) Chair and other non-executive members through open competition prior to the OEP's full statutory powers commencing. We are currently assessing the impact of the Environment Bill's pause and the wider context of COVID-19 on the public appointments timescales. here</p>
16/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Office for Environmental Protection: Finance: Written question - 57160</p> <p>Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when the first five-year ring-fenced budget for the Office for Environmental Protection will commence. [57160]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Defra will agree with HM Treasury a budget that will be ring-fenced for each spending review period, giving the Office for Environmental Protection greater certainty over its finances. The budget will be announced as soon as possible after the Environment Bill achieves Royal Assent. here</p>
16/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Protection: Written question - 57159</p> <p>Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the systems required to ensure that the environmental principles set out in the Environment Bill inform relevant Ministerial policy making. [57159]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Environment Bill places a new legal duty on Ministers to have due regard to the environmental principles policy statement when making policy across Government. The policy statement will provide clarity on the interpretation and application of the environmental principles to the policy-making process. These principles will also be embedded into existing government policy making guidance, including HM Treasury's Green Book. here</p>

17/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Protection: Reviews: Written question - 57163</p> <p><u>Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has in place for the establishment of the new legal enforcement process of environmental review as proposed in the Environment Bill and whether that process will be ready to receive cases by 1 January 2021. [57163]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane)</u>: Defra is working with colleagues across Government and the judiciary to ensure that the new legal mechanism of environmental review is established and able to receive cases from the point at which the relevant clauses of the Environment Bill are commenced, and the Office for Environmental Protection is operationally able to make applications for such a review. here</p>
17/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Protection: Standards: Written question - 57963</p> <p><u>Dr Matthew Offord (Hendon)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to Clause 1 of the Environment Bill, what steps his Department is taking to develop (a) long term resource efficiency and (b) waste reduction targets. [57963]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane)</u>: The Government plans to bring forward at least one target in the area of resource efficiency and waste reduction by the Environment Bill 's 31 October 2022 deadline.</p> <p>We want a robust, evidence-led process for setting targets which includes seeking independent expert advice, a role for stakeholders and the public, as well as scrutiny from Parliament. The process for setting targets will broadly include: setting the scope of the targets; developing fully evidenced targets; public consultation on target proposals and drafting target legislation. We will be engaging stakeholders, including on resource</p>

			<p>efficiency and waste, during our stepped approach to target setting.</p> <p>The target setting steps will broadly include: setting the scope of the targets; developing fully-evidenced targets; public consultation on target proposals and finally drafting target legislation. We expect to publish a Target Policy Paper over the coming months which will include further details and timing about these steps. here</p>
19/06/20	Notice	HoC	<p>Environment Bill 2019-21: Notice of Amendments</p> <p>House of Commons has published a Notice of Amendments given up to and including Friday 19th June 2020 for the Environment Bill, which can be accessed here: https://bit.ly/2YkFIXu</p>
29/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Economic Growth: Environment Protection: Written question – 63557</p> <p>Olivia Blake (Sheffield, Hallam): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that policies designed to stimulate economic activity do not undermine the environmental aims of (a) the 25 Year Environment Plan, (b) the Environment Bill, (c) the Agriculture Bill, and (d) net zero legislation. [63557]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government has no current plans to amend regulations and environmental protections in order to stimulate economic activity.</p> <p>However, as we rebuild our economy in response to the coronavirus pandemic, we are working to deliver a fairer, greener and more resilient future. We will ramp up our world-leading work on our ambitious legislative agenda through our landmark Environment and Agricultural Bills. These bills will work hand in hand to protect and recover our precious natural environment and diverse ecosystems in line with our 25 Year Environment Plan to leave the environment in a better place than we have inherited it.</p> <p>The 25 Year Environment Plan will be adopted as the first statutory Environmental Improvement Plan under the Bill. The Environment Bill also creates a power to set long-term, legally-binding</p>

			<p>environmental targets. It requires Government to set, and achieve, at least one long-term target in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water, and resource efficiency and waste reduction. We want them to be ambitious, credible, and supported by society. As a first step we expect to publish a Target Policy Paper over the coming months which will include further details about the target-setting process that we will be implementing.</p> <p>The net zero challenge remains and we need to transform our economy over the next three decades to end our contribution to climate change. In the UK we've already shown how to grow the economy while cutting emissions and we will continue to lead the world as we respond to the economic impacts of COVID-19 and develop our net zero strategy in advance of COP26. here</p>
29/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Nature Conservation: Finance: Written question – 64167</p> <p>Lilian Greenwood (Nottingham South): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what funding he plans to make available to responsible authorities for local nature recovery strategies. [64167]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): We have worked closely with local authorities and other public bodies to develop the Environment Bill, and are committed to engaging with them to bring forward a sensible implementation plan for the Bill that maximises effective delivery and minimises additional burdens.</p> <p>We will fully fund all new burdens arising from the Bill to ensure these flagship measures become a reality. We will be bidding through the next spending review to secure necessary funds. here</p>
29/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Nature Conservation: Written question - 64166</p> <p>Lilian Greenwood (Nottingham South): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans his Department has to consult on the procedure for (a) preparation, (b)</p>

			<p>publication and (c) review of local nature recovery strategies. [64166]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane):</u> Clause 96 of the Environment Bill proposes giving power to the Secretary of State to bring forward regulations specifying the procedure to be followed in preparing, publishing, reviewing and republishing Local Nature Recovery Strategies. In developing these regulations we will seek views from stakeholders and partners. We will be considering our approach to this following Royal Assent of the Bill. here</p>
29/06/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Nature Conservation: Maps: Written question - 64169</p> <p><u>Lilian Greenwood (Nottingham South):</u>To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what his timescale is for publication of the first national habitat map for England. [64169]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane):</u> My officials will be working with Natural England and local partners to pilot approaches to the production of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) in up to five areas in England. In these pilots we will explore how national data can best inform the production of LNRSs. We will then bring forward proposals for the national habitat map as soon as possible after Royal Assent of the Environment Bill. here</p>

Environment – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/06/20	Written Question	HoL	<p>Air Pollution: Standards: Written question - HL4693</p> <p><u>Baroness Jones of Whitchurch:</u> To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to bring forward amendments which would include the World Health Organisation's guideline air pollution limits in the Environment Bill.</p> <p>A. <u>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park:</u> Government is committed to tackling a diversity of pollutants which harm human health and the environment. We already have ambitious and statutory emission reduction ceilings in place for five key air pollutants, as well as legally binding concentration limits. However, the case for</p>

			<p>even more ambitious action on fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) is especially strong, as it is the pollutant that has the most significant impact on health.</p> <p>The Environment Bill establishes a legally binding duty to set a target for PM 2.5, in addition to a long-term air quality target. We are committed to setting challenging targets and following an evidence-based process, seeking advice from a range of experts, in addition to giving consideration to the World Health Organization's air quality guidelines. The targets will be set in secondary legislation at the end of this process. It would not be an effective approach to commit in primary legislation to achieving a target, without giving due consideration to its achievability and the measures required to meet that target. Stakeholders, Parliament and the public will have the opportunity to comment on, and input into, the process of developing this target. https://bit.ly/2YrM4TQ</p>
10/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Protection: Standards: Written question - 51919</p> <p>Neil Parish (Tiverton and Honiton): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if it remains the Government's policy to maintain the October 2022 deadline for (a) air quality, water, (b) biodiversity, (c) resource efficiency and (d) waste reduction targets. [51919]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government plans to bring forward at least one target in each of the four priority areas by the Environment Bill's 31 October 2022 deadline. Targets will be developed based on robust, scientifically credible evidence, as well as economic analysis. We want them to be ambitious, credible and supported by society. https://bit.ly/2Yx4ORX</p>
10/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution: Urban Areas: Written question - 52297</p> <p>Catherine West (Hornsey and Wood Green): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps the Government is taking to permanently improve air quality in (a) London and (b) other UK cities.</p>

			<p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Mayor of London is responsible for air quality in the capital and has reserve powers under the Environment Act 1995 to reflect this.</p> <p>The Government's Clean Air Strategy sets out an ambitious programme of action to reduce air pollution from a wide range of sources. We have also put in place a £3.8 billion plan to tackle roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations. Our Environment Bill makes a clear commitment to set a legally binding target to reduce fine particulate matter and enables local authorities to take more effective action to tackle air pollution in their areas.</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3hIDkXM</p>
24/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution: Pollution Control: Written question - 59866</p> <p>Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Brighton, Kemptown): To ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of a policy of aiming for (a) World Health Organization guideline levels on particulate matter pollution by 2030 and (b) other stricter than existing environmental targets on the environmental sustainability of (i) general Government policy and (ii) business investment. [59866]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): In July 2019, we published a report assessing the progress that will be made towards World Health Organization (WHO) PM 2.5 air quality guidelines with actions outlined in the Clean Air Strategy by 2030. This report showed that significant progress would be made towards achieving WHO guideline levels through the actions outlined in the Strategy, but that additional action would be needed to reach WHO guideline levels in specific locations (i.e. central London). The Government is committed to evidence-based policy making and will consider independent expert advice alongside evidence and analysis on a diversity of factors in setting air quality targets outlined in the Environment Bill. This will include the health benefits, the practical feasibility and economic viability of taking different actions to ensure that the targets are based on realistic pathways, robust science and full</p>

			<p>economic analysis such that they are ambitious, achievable and deliver the greatest public health benefits.</p> <p>The Government plans to bring forward at least one target in each of the four priority areas by the Environment Bill 's 31 October 2022 deadline. Legally binding targets are an important tool. They will drive action by successive governments to protect and enhance our natural world. They allow for robust, objective scrutiny and accountability of government's progress and they provide much-needed long-term certainty to businesses and society, to support planning, innovation and investment. here</p>
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Environment – climate change & net zero

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/06/20	Press release	BEIS	<p>New Emissions Trading System proposal would see UK go further in tackling climate change</p> <p>New UK system to replace EU system for trading carbon emissions: here</p>
09/06/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Carbon Emissions: Coronavirus: Written question - 51981</p> <p>Ian Lavery (Wansbeck): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the effect of the covid-19 outbreak on CO2 emissions.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): Covid-19 has had a significant short-term effect on emissions – for example, BEIS statistics estimate that road fuel sales between 23 March and 24 May were 43 per cent below the preceding eight weeks, and electricity consumption has also reduced. Renewables have regularly been providing more than 50% of our power. But the fundamental challenge of climate change has not changed – these reductions are likely to be short-term and the need to tackle climate change and reaching net zero remains as urgent as ever.</p> <p>Many of the actions we need to take to meet our future carbon budgets can also support our recovery from Covid-19 – for example through the investments we committed to in the Budget to support carbon capture and storage, electric vehicle infrastructure, and low carbon heating.</p>

			We will be setting out further plans in key sectors such as transport, heat and buildings this year. here
15/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Carbon Emissions: Written question - 56204</p> <p>Alexander Stafford (Rother Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the Government's target of the UK achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of including the carbon emissions of imported products in the calculation of the UK's carbon emissions. [56204]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Defra produces annual estimates of the UK's carbon footprint. The latest data was published on 4 May 2020: www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uks-carbon-footprint. These are consumption-based emissions and include the emissions embedded in imported products. However, consumption emissions are officially categorised as "experimental statistics" because of inherent uncertainties in the estimates produced. The UK's greenhouse gas emissions statistics used for the purposes of measuring progress against the net zero target are calculated in line with the standard international accounting approach for measuring emissions as established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. here</p>
16/06/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Manufacturing Industries: Carbon Emissions: Written question – 562050</p> <p>Alexander Stafford (Rother Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what additional (a) support and (b) funding the Government plans to provide to the manufacturing industry sector to help that sector achieve carbon neutral status. [56205]</p> <p>Nadhim Zahawi (Stratford-on-Avon): While we are rightly focusing on taking action to tackle the immediate Covid-19 crisis, we continue to prioritise efforts to deal with the serious challenges of climate change.</p> <p>The Government remains committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. We will continue backing this objective by funding programmes that accelerate the shift to electrification. For example, the Faraday</p>

			<p>Challenge is providing £274 million to ensure the UK leads the world in the design, development, and manufacture of batteries for the electrification of vehicles.</p> <p>The 2017 Made Smarter Review highlighted the economic (£455bn GVA + 175,000 jobs) environmental opportunities (4.5% reduction in CO2 emissions) for the UK's manufacturing sector until 2027. This includes £455 billion Gross Value Added, the creation of 175,000 jobs, and a 4.5% reduction in CO2 emissions. The development of low carbon technologies will benefit the UK economy, as well as reduce carbon emissions, including through the creation of new jobs.</p> <p>We will establish the world's first net zero carbon industrial cluster by 2040 and at least one low carbon cluster by 2030. This is the second mission under the Clean Growth Grand Challenge, launched in December 2018, and is the most relevant to those manufacturing industries that often co-locate in clusters. UK Research & Innovation is delivering up to £170 million to support the deployment of low carbon technologies in one or more clusters. here</p>
29/06/20	Written question	HoL	<p>Buildings: Carbon Emissions: Written question - HL5641</p> <p>Baroness Boycott: Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact on (1) the economy, and (2) carbon emissions, of retrofitting all publicly funded and owned buildings to achieve net zero emissions. [HL5641]</p> <p>Lord Callanan: The Government carries out full impact assessments when setting the carbon budgets on a path to reaching our 2050 target.</p> <p>The Government publishes national emissions statistics annually [1]. In 2018, the latest year for which data is available, the public sector accounted for 2% of total UK emissions.</p> <p>Decarbonising the public sector will reduce carbon emissions and will contribute to economic growth and the creation of green jobs.</p> <p>The impacts of unmitigated climate change are estimated at 5-20% of global GDP[2] whilst the costs of action to deliver net</p>

			<p>zero were estimated by the CCC last year[3] as 1-2% of global GDP in 2050 – and that could be partly or fully offset by benefits. The projected cost of reaching net zero has now reduced dramatically because of advances in clean energy and green technology, which we anticipate will continue to fall.</p> <p>[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/final-uk-greenhouse-gas-emissions-national-statistics-1990-to-2018</p> <p>[2] The Economics of Climate Change, The Stern Review, 2014</p> <p>[3] https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/ here</p>
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Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
10/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Beverage Containers: Recycling: Written question – 55111 Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Brighton, Kemptown): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on what date he plans to publish a further consultation on the design of the deposit return scheme.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government committed in its manifesto to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers and extended producer responsibility for wider packaging to drive greater levels of recycling and incentivise better design. We are seeking powers to do so in the Environment Bill. Since consulting on its introduction in 2019, the Government has been developing proposals for a DRS and extended producer responsibility using further evidence and ongoing engagement with stakeholders. The scope of both schemes are being further developed and will be presented in second consultations. The Government is reviewing its implementation timeline for the proposed introductions of DRS and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which will be announced in due course. https://bit.ly/3fanFZE</p>
10/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Beverage Containers: Recycling: Written question – 55112</p>

			<p><u>Lloyd Russell-Moyle (Brighton, Kemptown):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, on what date he plans to introduce (a) a deposit return scheme and (b) extended producer responsibility. [55112]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane):</u> The Government committed in its manifesto to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers and extended producer responsibility for wider packaging to drive greater levels of recycling and incentivise better design. We are seeking powers to do so in the Environment Bill. Since consulting on its introduction in 2019, the Government has been developing proposals for a DRS and extended producer responsibility using further evidence and ongoing engagement with stakeholders. The scope of both schemes are being further developed and will be presented in second consultations. The Government is reviewing its implementation timeline for the proposed introductions of DRS and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which will be announced in due course. https://bit.ly/2Ysd45F</p>
10/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Beverage Containers: Recycling: Written question – 54904</p> <p><u>Steve Brine (Winchester):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when he plans to introduce the deposit return scheme for plastic bottles. [54904]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane):</u> The Government committed in its manifesto to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers to incentivise people to recycle plastic and glass, and is seeking powers to do so in the Environment Bill. Since consulting on its introduction in 2019, the Government has been developing proposals for a DRS for drinks containers using further evidence and ongoing engagement with stakeholders. The scope of the scheme is being further developed and will be presented in a second consultation. The Government is reviewing its implementation timeline for the proposed introduction of the scheme, which will be announced in due course. here</p>

15/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Fly-tipping: Written question - 56169</p> <p><u>Peter Gibson (Darlington)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will take steps to strengthen local authority powers on tackling fly tipping from (a) members of the public and (b) commercial operators. [56169]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane)</u>: Fly-tipping is unacceptable and illegal wherever it occurs. It blights local communities and the environment and is an issue we are committed to tackling.</p> <p>We have recently provided local authorities with enhanced enforcement powers to tackle fly-tipping. Since January 2019 local authorities have been able to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) of up to £400 to householders who fail in their duty of care and give their waste to fly-tippers. We had previously given local authorities the power to issue FPNs to those who were caught fly-tipping.</p> <p>We have also given local authorities, that are also waste collection authorities, the power to search and or seize vehicles that they suspect have been involved, are involved or are about to be involved in fly-tipping and other waste crimes.</p> <p>Going forward, we are seeking powers in the Environment Bill to ensure agencies and authorities can work more effectively to combat waste crime through better access to evidence and improved powers of entry.</p> <p>In addition to enhancing enforcement powers, we committed in the Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) to develop a fly-tipping toolkit to help local authorities and others work in partnership to tackle fly-tipping. The RWS is available at www.gov.uk/government/publications/resources-and-waste-strategy-for-england here</p>
16/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Packaging: Recycling: Written question - 58091</p> <p><u>Daisy Cooper (St Albans)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment,</p>

			<p>Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of extending the deposit return scheme to food jars and sauce bottles. [58091]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane):</u> The Government plans to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for drinks containers subject to further evidence and analysis. The specific details of a DRS, including the material and drinks to be included in scope, will be developed further and will be presented in a second consultation. We may wish to introduce, at some point in the future, a DRS for other products such as batteries, electrical and electronic equipment and tyres. Powers in the Environment Bill will allow us the flexibility to set up a DRS for other waste streams should we decide to do so. There has been no specific assessment of the potential to extend a DRS to food jars and sauce bottles but we generally consider that a DRS may be the appropriate vehicle for articles that we regard as difficult to manage at end of life, are not typically recycled or are frequently littered or fly-tipped. here</p>
19/06/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Recycling: EU Law: Written question - 57961</p> <p><u>Dr Matthew Offord (Hendon):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to interpose the Circular Economy Package into law. [57961]</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane):</u> The UK remains committed to meeting its obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement and we have a manifesto commitment to protect and restore our natural environment after leaving the EU. Our landmark Environment Bill will help us achieve this. In the Resources and Waste Strategy published in 2018, we challenged ourselves to achieve a 65% municipal recycling rate target and to send 10% or less municipal waste to landfill by 2035. Work is underway to achieve these targets, which will help move towards a circular economy, keeping resources in</p>

			use as long as possible, so we extract maximum value from them. here
23/06/20	Oral question	HoL	<p>Fly tipping:</p> <p>Lord Trefgarne: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps the propose to take to reduce the amount of illegal fly-tipping, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park (The Minister of State, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development): My Lords, fly-tipping is unacceptable and the Government are committed to tackling this crime. We have given local authorities powers to issue fixed-penalty notices, seize vehicles and investigate and prosecute fly-tippers. Fly-tipping has reportedly increased in some areas and decreased in others during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have worked with local authorities and published guidance to support the reopening of household waste and recycling centres, with more than 90% of local authorities now providing some level of service. More here</p>
25/06/20	Oral answers	HoC	<p>Waste: reuse & recycling</p> <p>Elliot Colburn (Con) (Carshalton and Wallington): What steps he is taking to reduce, reuse and recycle waste produced in the UK. [903803]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Our resources and waste strategy, published in December 2018, sets out ambitious plans for how we will minimise waste, promote resource efficiency and move towards a more circular economy where we will reduce waste, reuse and recycle much more than we do now. It combines short and long-term actions and gives a clear long-term policy direction in line with our 25-year environment plan.</p> <p>Elliot Colburn: As the Minister knows, the waste hierarchy calls for a reduction in the amount of waste we produce as the best way to tackle waste in this country, followed closely by reusing and recycling that waste. Can she update me on the measures that her Department is taking to</p>

			<p>reduce the amount of waste produced in this country as part of our green recovery from covid, and will she consider Carshalton and Wallington as a pilot area for any new schemes, such as a deposit return scheme?</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): My hon. Friend is always representing his constituency and pushing for new things, and rightly so. The combined effect of the measures set out in the resources and waste strategy and the Environment Bill will be to minimise the amount of waste that reaches the lower levels of the waste hierarchy, including disposal to landfill. We remain committed to eliminating all avoidable plastic by the end of 2042. We have already committed in our manifesto to introducing a deposit return scheme. Unfortunately, we cannot consider the pilot in his area, but I thank him for his support. We look forward to it being introduced, and the second consultation will be under way next year. here</p>
25/06/20	Oral questions	HoC	<p>Plastic Waste Increase: Covid-19</p> <p>John Spellar (Lab) (Warley): What estimate his Department has made of the increase in plastic waste as a result of the covid-19 outbreak. [903809]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): DEFRA continues to monitor the impact of covid-19 on material flows. We have made no specific estimate of the impact of the outbreak on levels of plastic waste. However, we remain committed to eliminating the scourge of avoidable plastic waste by 2042, as demonstrated by our plans to ban single-use plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds, which we discussed in this very Chamber just a week ago. We continue to monitor recycling rates for plastic packaging and we have committed to introduce a deposit return scheme for drinks containers to incentivise people to recycle more plastic.</p> <p>John Spellar: May I suggest that the Department actually needs to get on and make some plans for this? We are talking about not avoidable but unavoidable plastic waste, because the covid-19 crisis has clearly necessitated the use and</p>

			<p>disposal of massive quantities of disposable personal protective equipment, much of it plastic, and new mitigation measures for the catering and hospitality industry will generate another wave. We all accept that this is necessary to protect health and get Britain back to work, but what is the Department going to do now to deal with this volume of waste, much of it plastic?</p> <p>Rebecca Pow: I thank the right hon. Gentleman, who raises some good points. This Government are absolutely committed to getting rid of plastic waste, as our resources and waste strategy shows, and as measures in the Environment Bill will demonstrate by bringing forward the deposit return scheme and extended producer responsibility. We need to get all businesses to think about what happens to the plastic products they make at the beginning and where they end up, with a view to greatly reduced quantities going to landfill. He raises a good point about PPE. Many companies are rethinking all this, and lots are now starting to have reusable face coverings and to make their own. There is a very useful guide to that on the Government website. here</p>
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Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Local government funding

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
09/06/20	Press release	NIC	Planning system acts as a 'straitjacket', says Bridget Rosewell – National Infrastructure Commissioner – in new Policy Exchange essay collection. here
29/06/20	Written question	MHCLG	Economic Growth: Environment Protection and Planning Permission: Written question - 63297

			<p>Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what plans he has to amend planning regulations and environment protections to stimulate economic activity ; and steps he will take to ensure that those changes do not undermine environmental aims set out in (a) the 25-Year Environment Plan, (b) the Environment Bill, (c) the Agriculture Bill and (d) net zero legislation. [63297]</p> <p>Christopher Pincher (Tamworth): The planning system has a vital role to play in enabling the delivery of housing and economic growth that will support the United Kingdom's economic recovery. In March, the Government signalled its intention to modernise our planning system, ensuring it supports the delivery of homes that local people need and creates more beautiful and greener communities. Since then, we have developed a number of planning regulation easements to support businesses to operate through COVID-19. These include laying SIs to enable restaurants, cafes and pubs to offer a takeaway and delivery service and removing specific publicity requirements for planning application. In addition, on 24 June we laid an SI which allows up to two storeys to be added to an existing purpose-built free-standing block of flats, of three storeys or more, to construct new homes. The right is subject to a maximum height limit for the newly extended building of 30 metres. We are continuing to work across government to investigate options for broader regulatory reform to support sustainable economic growth and renewal. here</p>
29/06/20	Debate	HoC	Business and Planning Bill debate here

Transport – automated & electric vehicles

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/06/20	Oral answers	HoL	Baroness Randerson : To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the impact of the COVID-19

			<p>pandemic on the provision of public transport.</p> <p>The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Transport (Baroness Vere of Norbiton) (Con): My Lords, public transport faces significant challenges: lower passenger demand, reduced capacity as a result of social distancing and higher than usual staff absence levels. We are working very closely with transport operators as they increase their services and are providing financial support where necessary. Continued debate here: https://bit.ly/3hhRKZf</p>
10/06/20	Press release	DfT	<p>New powers for councils to keep cyclists safe</p> <p>Cyclists will have safer journeys thanks to new laws coming into force from 22 June, Cycling Minister Chris Heaton-Harris has announced today (10 June 2020). here</p>
19/06/20	Paper	DfT	<p>Position statement on transport research and innovation requirements to support the decarbonisation of transport: here</p>

Transport – Sub-national Transport Boards (STBs) – (e.g. TfN, TfSE)

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/06/20	Press Release	Transport for the North	<p>Sustained rail investment vital to aid economic recovery and unlock the North's potential' say Northern leaders</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3hou8Ss</p>
03/06/20	Press release	WYCA	<p>Transformational transport schemes presented as West Yorkshire Combined Authority plans long term recovery from COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>https://bit.ly/30BjP7C</p>
04/06/20	Press release	Transport for the North	<p>Transport leaders to discuss how rail investment can get the North back on track at launch of online webinar series</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3cUVdtk</p>

Brexit – BEIS, Defra, MHCLG, & committees

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
28/05/20	Committee summary	HoL – EU committee	<p>Progress of UK-EU future relationship negotiations - Summary</p> <p>https://bit.ly/37zdgEp</p>