

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring June 2021

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

7 June 2021: House returns

22 July 2021: Summer recess

6 September 2021: House returns

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
09/06/21	Oral answers	COP26	<p>Climate Action and Green Recovery - UIN 900911 Andrew Gwynne, Denton and Reddish (Lab): What steps the Government are taking to promote climate action and a green recovery from the covid-19 pandemic ahead of COP26. The COP26 President (Alok Sharma): The Prime Minister 's 10-point plan sets out our blueprint for a green industrial revolution. The plan invests in green technologies and industries. It leverages billions of pounds of private sector investment to create and support up to 250,000 highly skilled green jobs and level up across the UK. More here</p>
09/06/21	Oral evidence	EAC	<p>Green Jobs - Environmental Audit Committee The committee heard that the Green Jobs Taskforce's action plan would be published imminently and would feed into the Government's net zero strategy. They heard that the Government's target of creating two million green jobs by 2030 was an "upper band estimate", although one with which ministers were "comfortable". More here</p>
10/06/21	Oral evidence	HCLG committee	<p>Oral evidence: Supporting our high streets after Covid-19, HC 37: Here</p>

14/06/21	Written answers	HM Treasury	<p>Government Assistance: Coronavirus - UIN 12208</p> <p>Rachael Maskell, York Central (Lab): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what plans he has to provide further support to sectors that recover slowly from the covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con): Throughout the pandemic, the government has sought to protect people's jobs and livelihoods while also supporting businesses and public services across the UK. To do this, the government has put in place an economic package of support which will provide businesses and individuals with certainty over the coming months, even as measures to prevent further spread of the virus change. The cumulative cost to the Government of this support since the start of the pandemic £352 billion. Schemes such as the CJRS and SEISS, support for businesses through grants and loans, business rates and VAT relief are continuing beyond the end of the roadmap. CJRS and SEISS have been extended until the end of September 2021, business rates and VAT relief to the end of the financial year, and Recovery Loans until the end of December 2021.</p> <p>Thanks to the people's hard work and sacrifice, supported by the success of the initial stages of the vaccine rollout, there is now a path to reopening the economy. We will continue to take a flexible but cautious approach as we review restrictions, ensuring support reflects the easing of restrictions to enable the economy to bounce back as quickly as possible. Here</p>
14/06/21	Written statement	DCMS	<p>Publication of a Tourism Recovery Plan</p> <p>The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has published a written ministerial statement on the Publication of a Tourism Recovery Plan. Here</p>
14/06/21	Oral answers	MHCLG	<p>Community Renewal and Levelling-up Funds - UIN 901082</p> <p>Chris Elmore, Ogmore (Lab): What steps he is taking to measure the effectiveness of the (a) community renewal fund and (b) levelling-up fund.</p> <p>Luke Hall (The Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government): Through the levelling-up fund and community renewal fund, we are investing more than £5 billion in people, infrastructure, the regeneration</p>

			<p>of town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets. These funds will include high-quality evaluation, which is crucial to understanding the types of intervention that best support places to level up, right across the country.</p> <p>Chris Elmore, Ogmore (Lab): I have tabled written parliamentary questions on this, which the Minister is yet to answer, but he also knows that I support the levelling-up fund, in that it is the only available funding on the table. Therefore, I want to work with the two local authorities in my constituency to ensure that we put forward the best bids for Ogmore constituents. Will he set out when the second and third funding round deadlines will be announced by him, or by the Secretary of State, so that local authorities can plan and ensure that they put the best possible bids forward for communities, because for many local authorities the 18 June deadline is simply too tight? I want to work with the Minister, and I would really welcome some constructive engagement to ensure that we get the very best for my constituents.</p> <p>More here</p>
16/06/21	Debate	HoC/HM Treasury	<p>Economy Update – Vol 697</p> <p>Steve Barclay, (The Chief Secretary to the Treasury): Before I make my statement, I add my appreciation to that of colleagues for Sir Roy Stone and the contribution he has made during his time in the House. There is little doubt that the four-week extension to restrictions announced on Monday will present additional challenges to thousands of people and businesses across the country. That is why at the Budget we went long and erred on the side of additional support. The package of support from my right hon. Friend the Chancellor was designed to accommodate short delays such as this.</p> <p>More here</p>
21/06/21	Oral evidence	HCLG Committee	<p>Oral evidence session: The long-term impact of the pandemic on towns and cities. Summary here</p>

Climate change – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
10/06/21	Written answers	HoL/Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN HL632</p> <p>Baroness Randerson: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the coroner 's</p>

			<p>reports relating to the death of Ella Kissi-Debrah and the prevention of future deaths, published on 20 April, whether they have accepted the recommendation that the UK's legal limit for particulate pollution should be halved to bring it in line with WHO guidelines; and what steps they have taken (1) to improve public warnings on air pollution levels, and (2) to improve awareness among medical staff of the need to provide more information to patients on the health impacts of air pollution.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: Our thoughts continue to be with Ella's family and friends. We are carefully considering the Prevention of Future Deaths Report published by the Coroner on 21 April and we will respond in due course. We know that air pollution is the single greatest environmental risk to human health, and although air pollution has reduced significantly over the last decade, there is more to do. In 2019, we published our Clean Air Strategy which recognised the need for comprehensive action on air pollution for the primary and crucial purpose of protecting people's health.</p> <p>Our landmark Environment Bill delivers key aspects of our Strategy. The Bill establishes a legally binding duty to set at least two new air quality targets, through the Environmental Targets Framework. We recognise the need to take action to reduce people's exposure to PM 2.5 and in proposing a dual target approach, we are putting health at the centre of our target setting. This approach will ensure action is taken at pollution hotspots and continuous improvement will be driven across the country. We will take into account WHO guidance when setting these targets</p> <p>Defra makes air pollution information available through a range of channels, such as the UK-Air website and more recently working with Global Action Plan to deliver the Clean Air Hub. We also provide information to a network of charities (e.g. the Asthma UK and British Lung Foundation Partnership, British Heart Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Trust, British Thoracic Society and others) when air pollution levels are forecast to be</p>
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			<p>elevated to ensure information reaches the most vulnerable.</p> <p>The Department for Health and Social Care continues to engage with organisations such as Health Education England and the Royal Colleges to ensure that healthcare professionals are equipped to provide information and advice to those vulnerable to the health impacts of air pollution. The Chief Medical Officer has also discussed this matter with the Royal Colleges during a recent meeting. This will allow patients and their carers to take steps to reduce their exposure to air pollution and give them greater power to manage their condition.</p> <p>The NHS Long Term Plan committed to improve asthma outcomes for children and young people. The Children and Young People's Transformation Programme has asked local systems to prioritise local improvements in asthma care. This will include supporting clinicians to discuss the short and long-term adverse effects of air pollution in children with asthma and any mitigation strategies. Here</p>
25/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 16989</p> <p>Sam Tarry, Ilford South (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will bring forward legislative proposals to set legally binding interim targets for particulate matter 2.5 at the WHO recommendation of 20 grams per cubic metre.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Our landmark Environment Bill, which is currently passing through Parliament, requires the government to set long-term, legally binding environmental targets in four priority areas, including air quality. In addition to this, there is a duty to set a new target for PM2.5 based on annual mean concentrations.</p> <p>As part of the process for setting air quality targets, essential work is being carried out to ensure that we have an understanding of the action that will be required to reach the targets, to ensure that they are feasible and assess the associated costs and benefits. A summary of this analysis will be included in a public consultation before the targets are set through secondary legislation in October</p>

			<p>2022. We have always been clear that we will consider WHO air quality guidelines as part of this process. We are also working with experts such as AQEG (Air Quality Expert Group) and COMEAP (Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants) to seek their advice, views and recommendations on key aspects of how the targets are developed.</p> <p>In the meantime, we are continuing to drive forward the ambitious actions outlined in the Clean Air Strategy, such as phasing out the sale of house coal and small volumes of wet wood for domestic burning, which is a major source of PM2.5.</p> <p>Here</p>
28/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 16948</p> <p>Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the merits of a standalone Clean Air Act.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): In the 2019 Clean Air Strategy we outlined our plans to bring forward new primary legislation on air quality and the Environment Bill delivers on this commitment. The Bill makes a clear commitment to set a new target for fine particulate matter, the pollutant of most harm to health, alongside at least one further long-term air quality target. It also ensures that local authorities have a clear framework and simple to use powers for tackling air pollution in their areas, and it addresses a crucial regulation gap by providing the Government with new powers to enforce environmental standards for vehicles and non-road mobile machinery.</p> <p>Alongside this, we have brought forward secondary legislation - the Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) Regulations 2020 to phase out the sale of the most polluting fuels starting 1 May 2021, helping to tackle a major source of fine particulate matter emissions in the UK. We have also recently brought forward the Air Quality (Legislative Functions) (Amendment) Regulations 2021, which will enable us to keep our Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR) legislation up to date with any technical,</p>

			<p>scientific or international Protocol advances.</p> <p>Air pollution has reduced significantly since 2010 – emissions of nitrogen oxides are at their lowest level since records began. However, we know that we must continue to work to tackle air pollution. The Environment Bill also establishes a new statutory cycle of monitoring, planning and reporting, which comprises annual reports by the Government to Parliament on progress against targets, including those on air quality, regular scrutiny from the Office for Environmental Protection, and five-yearly reviews and updates of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP). An EIP must set out the steps the Government intends to take to improve the natural environment, which we would expect to include measures needed to meet its long term and interim targets.</p> <p>Here</p>

Climate change & net zero – Build back better/infrastructure

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/06/21	Written answers	HoL/MHCLG	<p>Infrastructure: Carbon Emissions - UIN HL294</p> <p>Lord Newby: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to ensure that the proposed Planning Bill contains provisions to require the impact of any new infrastructure proposal to be assessed against the ability to achieve the UK's net-zero carbon emissions target.</p> <p>Lord Greenhalgh: National planning policies already recognise the importance of sustainable development, and make clear that reducing carbon emissions should be considered in plan and decision making. The Government is considering how the planning system can further support our commitment to reaching net zero, including through the planning reform programme and the forthcoming Planning Bill. Our response to the Planning for the Future White Paper, setting out next steps on these reforms, will be published in due course. Here</p>
07/06/21	Press release	Cabinet office	<p>Firms must commit to net zero to win major government contracts. New measures will require businesses to commit to net zero by 2050 before they can bid for major government contracts. Here</p>

17/06/21	Press release	HM Treasury	UK Infrastructure Bank opens for business: UK businesses and communities will have billions of pounds available from today as Chancellor Rishi Sunak opens the new UK Infrastructure Bank to support local growth and tackle climate change. Here
21/06/21	Press release	BEIS	Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) Transition Scheme: The Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF) Transition Scheme supports the commercialisation of low-carbon heat network projects. It opens to applications in July 2021. More here
21/06/21	Press release	EAC	Government accepts EAC recommendation for National Infrastructure Bank to be permanent with possible future focus on nature recovery. The Government has confirmed that the National Infrastructure Bank will be a public institution on a permanent basis and has committed to reviewing the case for broadening the Bank's mandate to include improving the UK's natural capital, before bringing forward legislation to put the Bank on a statutory footing. Here
22/06/21	Report	EAC	Growing back better: putting nature and net zero at the heart of the economic recovery: Government and Bank of England Responses to the Committee's Third Report of Session 2019–21. Here
23/06/21	Written answers	MHCLG	Getting Building Fund - UIN 18461 Ms Karen Buck, Westminster North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, if he will publish the amounts allocated to date under the Getting Building Fund by (a) region and (b) nation of the UK to date. Luke Hall, Thornbury and Yate (Con): In 2020 the £900 million Getting Building Fund was launched in England to deliver jobs, skills and infrastructure. This investment is being targeted in areas in England facing the biggest economic challenges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. All £900 million have been allocated to support the delivery of shovel-ready infrastructure projects agreed with Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). Details of the allocated amounts by MCAs and LEP can be found on the Government website (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-building-fund). Here

Climate change & net zero - Housing

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
11/06/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Green Homes Grant Scheme - UIN 8569 <u>Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the Answer of 27 April 2021 to Question 183114, when he plans to publish the details of his Department's plans for a replacement of the Green Homes Grant Scheme in order to decarbonise homes in line with the Climate Change Committee's advice on the Sixth Carbon Budget; and if he will take into account the findings of IPSOS Mori's evaluation of the Green Homes Grant in developing that scheme.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con):</u> Since the Green Homes Grant Vouchers scheme closed to new applications on 31 March 2021, we have refocused efforts and funding on alternative approaches to maximise the delivery of home retrofits for those most in need. This is through expanding the funding commitment for both the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and the Local Authority Delivery element of the Green Homes Grant scheme with £300million of new funding in financial year 21/22.</p> <p>We plan to publish the Heat and Buildings Strategy in due course, which will set out our approach for reducing emissions from buildings, both in terms of action over the coming decade and our longer-term strategic approach to 2050. Any decisions about future funding are a matter for the spending review. We will, of course reflect on lessons learned from the closure of Green Homes Grant Vouchers. <u>Here</u></p>
14/06/21	Written answers	MHCLG	<p>Housing: Insulation - UIN 10366 <u>Julian Sturdy, York Outer (Con):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the value of wool as a thermal insulator in the construction of new environmentally-friendly homes.</p> <p><u>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con):</u> The Government is committed to meeting its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The National Planning Policy Framework sets out how we expect the planning system to help mitigate and adapt to climate change. In their</p>

			<p>development plan policies, local planning authorities can encourage the use of sustainable materials like wool in new development.</p> <p>We have not made any assessment of the value of wool as a thermal insulator. The Building Regulations are generally couched in performance terms and do not prescribe the technologies, materials or fuels to be used, allowing builders the flexibility to innovate and select the most practical and cost-effective solutions in particular circumstances. Developers are able to use wool products in construction projects where it is safe to do so and where it can be shown to meet all applicable Building Regulations requirements. Here</p>
15/06/21	EDM	HoC	<p>Zero-carbon domestic renewables - Early Day Motions 202 Primary Sponsor: Tim Farron (LD): That this House recognises the UK's legal commitment to reduce carbon emissions, including those from domestic dwellings, to Net Zero by 2050; further notes that 30% of UK carbon dioxide emissions are from domestic dwellings; recognises that micro-generation of home grown energy and heating is vital to reach the Net Zero target; further recognises that VAT currently imposed on domestic renewables including Solar PV, Solar Thermal, Air and Ground/Water Source Heat Pumps, and further energy efficiency measures has previously been a legal requirement stipulated by EU Regulations; considers that leaving the EU provides an opportunity to review VAT on zero-carbon domestic renewables, installations, and energy efficiency measures; and calls on the Government to rate all VAT on zero-carbon domestic renewable products, installations, associated heating systems, and retrofitting energy efficiency measures, at 0% VAT for a period of 10 years, making Zero Carbon equal Zero VAT. Here</p>
22/06/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Buildings and Heating: Carbon Emissions - UIN 16262 Sam Tarry, Ilford South (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether the Heat and Building Strategy will include a carbon saving of at least 71 million tonnes of CO2 between 2023 and 2032 as a minimum target in order to align with the UK's</p>

			<p>nationally determined contribution for COP26.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con):</u> In order to meet our Net Zero by 2050 target, we must act now to tackle the emissions produced by heating. In order to ensure continued progress, we have set a series of legally binding "carbon budgets", which are amongst the most stringent climate targets in the world. The Government is planning to publish a Heat and Buildings Strategy in due course, which will set out the immediate actions we will take for reducing emissions from buildings, setting out the interventions required to meet our ambitious carbon budget targets, with a particular focus on carbon budgets 4 and 5. These actions include the deployment of energy efficiency measures and low carbon heating as part of an ambitious programme of work required to enable key strategic decisions on how we achieve the mass transition to low-carbon heat and set us on a path to decarbonising all homes and buildings.</p> <p>We will also publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy ahead of COP26, setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy. This will raise ambition as we outline our path to meet net zero by 2050, our Carbon Budgets and Nationally Determined Contribution. <u>Here</u></p>
23/06/21	MHCLG	BEIS	<p>Housing: Carbon Emissions - UIN 16249</p> <p><u>Feryal Clark, Enfield North (Lab):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he has taken to decarbonise housing.</p> <p><u>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con):</u> From 2025, the Future Homes Standard will ensure that new homes produce at least 75 per cent lower CO2 emissions compared to those built to current standards. This represents a considerable improvement in energy efficiency standards for new homes. These homes will be future-proofed with low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency. No further energy efficiency retrofit work will be necessary to enable them to become zero-carbon over time as the electricity grid continues to decarbonise. Our work on a full technical specification for the Future Homes Standard has been accelerated and we will consult on this in 2023. We also intend to</p>

			<p>introduce the necessary legislation in 2024, ahead of implementation in 2025.</p> <p>Decarbonising existing housing stock is also vital to achieving net zero. The Government set out its ambition in the Energy White Paper that all homes should reach Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band C by 2035, where practical, cost-effective and affordable. Alongside this, the Prime Minister 's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution set a target of installing 600,000 heat pumps every year by 2028. The Heat and Buildings Strategy will set out how we intend to meet our commitments and set us on a path to decarbonising homes and buildings by 2050, while continuing to deliver greater numbers of safe and affordable new homes.</p> <p>The Government has committed to consult on measures to improve the energy performance of owner-occupied homes, and we recently ran a consultation on how mortgage lenders can support homeowners to improve the energy performance of their homes. We are also considering further options and will be publishing a call for evidence to seek views on these. For the private rental sector, homes are currently required to have an energy efficiency rating EPC E or above unless a valid exemption applies. The regulations applied to new tenancies only from April 2018, and then to all tenancies in scope from 1 April 2020. BEIS recently consulted on raising this minimum standard to EPC C for new tenancies from 2025 and all tenancies from 2028. These responses are being analysed and a response will follow.</p> <p>Finally, we are currently reviewing the Decent Homes Standard, and we will ensure the review considers how the standard can work to support better energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of social homes. Here</p>

Climate change & net zero – Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
14/06/21	Oral answers	MHCLG	<p>Green Spaces - UIN 901097 Karl M^cCartney, Lincoln (Con): What steps his Department is taking to protect green spaces.</p> <p>Robert Jenrick (The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government): The pandemic has shown how vital our green spaces are for the wellbeing of the nation, from sharing our national parks together to inviting loved ones over to our gardens. That is why it was a priority for me and my Department to reopen our parks at the start of the pandemic—something that has offered a lifeline to many people and families over the past year. As we build back better and greener in our recovery, we will enhance our environment and provide more green spaces through our forthcoming planning reforms. They will build on and embed our already extensive protections for the green belt, areas of outstanding natural beauty and our ancient woodlands. More here</p>
14/06/21	Written answers	MHCLG	<p>Planning: Nature Conservation UIN 901093 Munira Wilson, Twickenham (LD): Whether it is his policy that Local Nature Recovery Strategies should be given consideration by local authorities in all planning decisions.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): The Environment Bill currently before Parliament provides for a strengthened biodiversity duty on public authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity. This strengthened duty includes a requirement to have regard to relevant Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Our planning reforms will reinforce the implementation of these measures, to capitalise on the potential of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and biodiversity net gain as we seek to make the system clearer and more positive. Here</p>
14/06/21	Oral answers	MHCLG	<p>Environmental Protections: Development - UIN 901081 Gareth Bacon, Orpington (Con): If he will publish the Government's plans for environmental protections in the development process.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher (The Minister for Housing): The planning for the future consultation closed in October 2020, and it generated an enormous amount of interest, with 44,000 responses. We are analysing those responses and will respond</p>

			to the consultation in due course. We are committed to planning reforms that are intended to provide better protection for environmental assets. I have worked closely with my right hon. Friend the Environment Secretary as well as with my hon. Friend the Member for Orpington (Gareth Bacon) on the measures in the Environment Bill, and the planning reforms complement and reflect these. More here
18/06/21	Written questions	MHCLG	<p>Planning Permission - UIN 14073</p> <p>Mark Eastwood, Dewsbury (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of clauses 105 and 106 of the Environment Bill on outstanding planning applications with proposed development sites that include a variety of species and natural habitats.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): These clauses in the Environment Bill support the Government's increased ambitions for nature and to deliver on our world leading target of halting species decline by 2030. The clauses reflect the importance of furthering the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and will enable the Secretary of State to introduce regulations which amend the Habitats Regulations as they apply in England. This will provide greater legal certainty and make environmental processes clearer, to help improve the condition of our most important habitats. The Secretary of State may only make regulations under these clauses if they are satisfied that the regulations do not reduce the level of environmental protection provided by the Habitats Regulations. These changes complement MHCLG's commitment to encourage biodiversity net gain through the planning system, as set out in our Planning for the Future White Paper. Here</p>
18/06/21	Written answers	MHCLG	<p>Solar Power: Planning Permission - UIN 13937</p> <p>Mr Steve Baker, Wycombe (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of updating the Solar Energy Planning Guidance to give the same protections to ordinary agricultural land, categories Agricultural Land Classification Grade 3b and below, that it receives in other planning guidance.</p>

			<p>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by recognising the benefits from natural capital, including those from the best and most versatile agricultural land. Though the Framework does not refer to agricultural land that is less versatile (graded 3b, 4 or 5 by Natural England), it does expect local planning authorities to have regard to the character and beauty of the countryside, and to protect valued soils and landscapes. Wherever possible, authorities should make the most of brownfield land for development.</p> <p>The Framework explains that all communities have a responsibility to help increase the use and supply of green energy, but this does not mean that the need for renewable energy automatically overrides environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities. As with other types of development, it is important that the planning concerns of local communities are properly heard in matters that directly affect them. Here</p>
21/06/21	Press release	LGA	<p>Planning - House of Commons, 21 June 2021: Councils are committed to ensuring new homes are built and communities have quality places to live. It is vital that these are delivered through a locally-led planning system with public participation. Here</p>
21/06/21	Written answers	MHCLG	<p>Property Development: Carbon Emissions - UIN 16153</p> <p>Rachael Maskell, York Central (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps he will take through the planning system to ensure that all new developments are carbon neutral by 2030.</p> <p>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): The National Planning Policy Framework sets out how the Government expects the planning system to help mitigate and adapt to climate change, and addresses the need to reduce carbon emissions. The Framework expects Local Plans to take account of climate change over the longer term; local authorities should adopt proactive strategies to reduce carbon emissions and recognise the objectives and provisions of the Climate Change Act 2008.</p>

			<p>Support for the transition to a low carbon future is one of the core planning principles set out in the Framework.</p> <p>We will amend the Framework to ensure that it targets areas where a reformed planning system can most effectively play a role in mitigating and adapting to climate change, and maximising environmental benefits. We are continuing to reflect on the detailed design of our current programme of planning reforms, in the light of the many consultation responses received, and will set out the proposed way forward shortly.</p> <p>From 2025, the Future Homes Standard will ensure that new homes produce at least 75% lower CO2 emissions compared to those built to current standards. These new homes will be future-proofed with high levels of energy efficiency. No further retrofit work will be necessary to enable them to become zero-carbon as the electricity grid continues to decarbonise.</p> <p>Here</p>
21/06/21	Written answers	MHCLG	<p>Local Government: Carbon Emissions UIN 15443</p> <p>Robert Largan, High Peak (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what plans his Department has to make more resources available for local authorities to (a) hire and (b) support staff with the expertise to deliver comprehensive decarbonisation plans.</p> <p>Eddie Hughes, Walsall North (Con): Government recognises the important role local authorities can play in decarbonisation and clean growth. Ministers have a limited role in local authority workforce issues. This is because councils are independent employers, responsible for the management and organisation of their own workforces, including managing budgets to recruit and train staff. It is for local leaders to make these decisions within the resources that they have available, and we know many have recruited large, dedicated climate change teams, while others have secured carbon literacy training to ensure Planning Officers and other staff have the expertise they need to build decarbonisation into their functions.</p>

			<p>In the Planning for the Future White Paper my department committed to develop a comprehensive resources and skills strategy for the planning sector to support the implementation of our reforms, which are aligned with Net Zero goals.</p> <p>Net Zero is a priority for the whole of Government. DfT and BEIS have also taken steps to ensure local authorities have the necessary capabilities to take action locally. For example, the BEIS Local Energy Programme was established to help them fulfil this role, and Local Energy Hubs have been established to provide local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships with access to technical and commercial support for the initial stages of developing low carbon energy projects. Here</p>
			<p>Planning System Reforms: Wild Belt Designation – Vol 697 Claire Coutinho, East Surrey (Con): I beg to move, that this House has considered a proposal for Wild Belt designation in planning system reforms. It is a pleasure to serve under your chairmanship, Mrs Cummins. In the UK, we have seen a 41% decline in our species since 1970, and in England one species in eight is threatened with extinction. Wildlife habitats in this country are fewer, smaller and more distant than they ever have been, which is a problem not only for biodiversity, but for our fight against climate change. When nature is working, it can capture carbon, improve our air and water quality, and act as a flood defence. Restoring and protecting our natural system could provide more than a third of the carbon mitigation needed by 2030 to meet the Paris climate agreement. When nature is broken, however, it cannot protect us. More here</p>
23/06/21	Written answers	MHCLG	<p>Planning: Greenhouse Gas Emissions - UIN 16086 Dr Matthew Offord, Hendon (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what guidance his Department has published to help ensure that planning authorities take into account the Government's commitment to achieve the Climate Change Committee's goal to reduce emissions by 78 per cent by 2035. Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): In 2019, the United Kingdom was the first G7 country to put into law our ambition to</p>

			<p>reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Following the Climate Change Committee's recommendation, the Sixth Carbon Budget targets an ambitious and world-leading 78 per cent reduction in emissions between 1990 to 2035. The National Planning Policy Framework clearly sets out how planning authorities should support the transition to a changing climate and how to avoid vulnerability of new development to the effects of climate change. Additionally, the Climate Change Planning Practice Guidance sets out further advice on how local planning authorities can integrate adaptation and mitigation policies into their decision-making.</p> <p>The Planning for the Future White Paper outlines how the Government will work to improve the planning system to help us meet our net zero targets and bolster environmental standards, and we will reflect very carefully on the views received in considering how best to take its vision forward. The consultation generated enormous interest and we are currently reviewing and analysing these responses and we will set out the proposed way forward. Local leadership is important, and we are committed to working closely with local authorities across the United Kingdom, particularly when it comes to reducing our emissions. They are uniquely well positioned to harness local actors to align local needs with national interests, drive clean local growth, and influence behaviour. Here</p>
29/06/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Green Homes Grant Scheme: Planning Permission - UIN 19718</p> <p>Darren Henry, Broxtowe (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether planning permission is required for works undertaken as part of the Green Homes Grant Scheme for properties that are not in a conservation area.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): The Government is fully committed to encouraging homeowners to incorporate energy efficiency measures in their properties, to tackle climate change. In order to be eligible for funding under the Green Homes Grant Voucher scheme, applicants must have obtained the necessary consents and permissions from all relevant authorities and parties to install measures in their property. This is specified</p>

			in the scheme's Customer Terms and Conditions. Furthermore, all works completed under the scheme must be compliant with building regulations and standards. Here

Climate change & net zero – Transport

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/06/21	Written answers	DfT	<p>Roads: Freight - UIN 7316 Imran Ahmad Khan, Wakefield (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to increase the proportion of road freight journeys made in vehicles powered by renewable energy.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): Decarbonisation of the UK's road freight sector will play a critical role in delivering on our climate ambitions. The Government is rewarding the supply of renewable fuels for use in road transport, including heavy goods vehicles (HGVs), through the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation scheme. We have also made funding available through multimillion-pound industry demonstration competitions, such as the Future Fuels for Flight and Freight Competition (the F4C), which support projects capable of producing low carbon waste-based fuels for use in aviation and HGVs.</p> <p>The Prime Minister 's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution announced that we are investing £20m this financial year in planning for zero emission road freight trials which will support UK industry to develop cost-effective, zero-emission HGVs and their refuelling infrastructure in the UK. These trials will advance research and development in the technologies of catenary electric, battery electric and renewable hydrogen-powered HGVs, allowing us to begin the commercial roll-out of the appropriate new technologies before the end of the decade. We will also be consulting on a date for phasing out the sale of new diesel HGVs to drive innovation and development and increase the uptake of zero emission alternatives within the HGV sector.</p> <p>In November 2020, HM Treasury published the National Infrastructure Strategy. This</p>

			confirmed that the £950m Rapid Charging Fund (RCF) was to be made available to future-proof electrical grid capacity at service areas on motorways and major A-roads. Whilst the RCF is currently targeting cars and vans, the additional electrical capacity will support charging infrastructure for zero emission HGVs. We are currently analysing the demand from zero-emission HGVs at Motorway Service Stations and considering how the infrastructure installed as part of the RCF can be used by zero emission HGVs in the future. Here
16/06/21	Debate	HoC	Transport Decarbonisation Plan – Vol 697 Felicity Buchan, Kensington (Con) : I beg to move, that this House has considered the transport decarbonisation plan. It is a pleasure to serve under your chairmanship, Mr Robertson, even if only for a few minutes. There is no question but that the UK has been an international leader in combating climate change, and I am proud of that record. Since 1990, we have decarbonised at the fastest rate of any G20 country, and of course we were the first of the major countries to legislate for net zero by 2050. In December 2020, we went even further and said that we would get to a 68% reduction by 2030. That is an ambitious target. More here
24/06/21	Written answers	Dft	Public Transport: Environment Protection - UIN 16869 Daniel Zeichner, Cambridge (Lab) : To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps the Government plans to take to promote the climate advantages of public transport during COP26. Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con) : A multifaceted transport plan is being developed to support the delegate experience at COP26 with public transport being a key element of the plan. The plan will encourage delegates, media, and civil society travelling to COP26 to consider low-carbon travel options such as rail as a way of entering the UK. Here
24/06/21	Written answers	Dft	Cycling and Walking - UIN 17021 Dr Kieran Mullan, Crewe and Nantwich (Con) : To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to encourage the uptake of cycling and walking. Chris Heaton-Harris, Daventry (Con) : On 28 July 2020 the Prime Minister launched ambitious plans to boost cycling and

			<p>walking, with the ambition that half of all journeys in towns and cities are cycled or walked by 2030. This includes a £2 billion package of funding for active travel over 5 years, the largest ever boost for cycling and walking.</p> <p>The first £250 million of the £2 billion was allocated in 2020/21, with much of this going to local authorities enabling them quickly to deliver safe walking and cycling routes in their area. The Department's latest Road Traffic Estimates for Great Britain suggest that the amount of cycling was 46% higher in 2020 than in 2019, with around 5 billion miles cycled. This is the highest level of cycling on the public highway since the 1960s. The Government is providing over a quarter of a billion pounds for walking and cycling this financial year, and will be making a further announcement shortly on all it is doing to support this important agenda. Here</p>
25/06/21	Oral answers	DfT	<p>Zero Emission Vehicles - Vol 697 Ellie Reeves, Lewisham West and Penge (Lab): What recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on incentivising the purchase of zero emission vehicles ahead of the 2030 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles. The Secretary of State for Transport (Grant Shapps): Alongside the phase-out dates, we have pledged a £2.8 billion package of measures to support the industry and consumers to make the switch to cleaner vehicles. Discussions with my colleagues are ongoing. More here</p>

Climate change & net zero – Misc.

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/02/21	Written answers	HoL/Defra	<p>Climate Change: Urban Areas - UIN HL371 Baroness Parminter: To ask Her Majesty's Government how many UK cities have adaptation plans to respond to the impacts of climate change. Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park: This information is not available. Quantifying adaptation plans in UK cities to respond to climate change impacts is a complicated and time-consuming process, and information can only be obtained at disproportionate cost. Here</p>
02/06/21	Written answers	MHCLG	<p>Local Plans: Nature Conservation - UIN 7139</p>

			<p><u>Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what his policy is on the level of emphasis that should be given to nature recovery networks in local plans developed by local planning authorities; and what weight his Department will attach to local authorities' consideration of nature recovery networks when deciding whether to approve local plans.</p> <p><u>Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con):</u> Our existing national planning policy is clear that local plans should take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing habitat networks, and identify opportunities to enhance natural capital. Looking to the future, we are determined that our planning reforms will leave an inheritance of environmental improvement, and my Department has been working closely with colleagues in DEFRA so that the implications of the Environment Bill are fully considered with this aim in mind. This includes capitalising on the potential of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and biodiversity net gain as we seek to make the system clearer and more positive. My Department will set out our full policy position in our response to the Planning for the Future White Paper later this year. Here</p>
07/06/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Local Government: Greenhouse Gas Emissions - UIN 7883</p> <p><u>Helen Hayes, Dulwich and West Norwood (Lab):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to promote the role of local government in delivering the national net zero target at COP26.</p> <p><u>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con):</u> The Government recognises that local government can drive progress towards our national climate change commitments, and we are committed to working closely with them to ensure their role in delivering net zero targets are promoted at COP26. Since 2017, BEIS has invested almost £22m in the Local Energy Programme, which is designed to build local capacity, capability and encourage joined-up working between local areas, investors and central government on decarbonisation and clean growth. Further details of how we intend to work with local government to reach net zero will be set</p>

			out in the Net Zero Strategy, to be published prior to COP26. Here
08/06/21	Written Ministerial statement	DWP	DWP: Taking Action on Climate Change The Department for Work and Pensions has published a written ministerial statement on Taking Action on Climate Change. Statement made by Guy Opperman, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Pensions & Financial Inclusion . More here
08/06/21	Oral questions	HoL/BEIS	Net-Zero Carbon Emissions UIN Baroness Boycott : To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they plan to publish a strategy for public engagement and behaviour change to support their target for net zero carbon emissions by 2050; and if so, when? Lord Callanan (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) : My Lords, leading up to COP 26, we will publish a comprehensive net-zero strategy setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net-zero economy, making the most of new growth and employment opportunities across the United Kingdom. Through the net-zero strategy we will communicate our approach to public engagement and support the public to make green choices. Achieving our net-zero target will be a shared endeavour requiring action from everyone in society. More here
09/06/21	Written answers	COP26	UN Climate Conference 2021: Carbon Emissions - UIN 8520 John Redwood, Wokingham (Con) : To ask the President of COP26, what estimate he has made of the carbon footprint of COP26 with all delegates attending in person. Alok Sharma, Reading West (Con) : Our intent remains to hold the conference in person, respecting the wishes of all parties, many of whom feel strongly that the COP must be in person. However, we also continue to explore how technology and other innovations can make it more resilient, safe and inclusive. We are working with our Sustainability Consultant on the principle priority to reduce emissions from the conference within a robust Carbon Management Plan, with any unavoidable carbon emissions from COP26 to be offset. We will encourage all delegates to consider low-carbon travel options and will be offsetting the emissions associated with travel,

			including those of the COP President and UK officials in the run up to COP26. As part of our COP26 carbon management planning process, we are currently developing a baseline assessment of the scale of carbon emissions and the priority areas for action. All carbon accounting is being carried out in line with the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol and other sources of best practice guidance and will be published once the event has been delivered. Here
09/06/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Climate Change - UIN 10149</p> <p>Ed Davey, Kingston and Surbiton (LD): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the International Energy Agency's report entitled Net Zero by 2050: A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector, published in May 2021, what steps his Department plans to take to tackle the (a) social and (b) economic effects on people and communities of achieving the UK's climate change targets.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): People from all over the UK are already doing their bit on climate change, and, with the Together for our Planet campaign, we aim to celebrate this and inspire even more of our fellow citizens to join them. The Government is already supporting people to adapt to new lower carbon technologies with initiatives such as Go Ultra Low and the Simple Energy Advice service. On economic effects, we are determined to seize the once-in-a-generation economic opportunities of the net zero transition by creating new business opportunities and supporting up to 2 million green jobs by 2030 across all regions of the UK. HM Treasury will publish in full its Net Zero Review this Spring, and has already published an interim report. The review will set out how the transition to a net zero economy will be funded, and where the costs will fall.</p> <p>In order to ensure we have the skilled workforce to deliver net zero, we have launched the Green Jobs Taskforce, working in partnership with business, skills providers and unions, to help us develop plans for new long-term good quality, green jobs by 2030. The Government will make sure that our growing green economy is inclusive, benefitting people</p>

			across the UK, supporting workers as industries transform and ensuring costs as well as the benefits are shared fairly, protecting consumers, workers and businesses. Here
10/06/21	Press release	HM Treasury	New independent group to help tackle 'greenwashing' . The UK's net zero economy goal was boosted today (9 June 2021) with the appointment of a new expert group whose work will support investors, consumers and businesses to make green financial decisions. Here
11/06/21	Written answers	BEIS	Net Zero Expert Group - UIN 7780 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will publish the (a) membership, (b) terms of reference and (c) future dates of meetings of the Net Zero Expert Group. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): The Net Zero Expert Group is an informal group of experts helping advise government on driving forward net zero, particularly on taking a whole systems approach to net zero and delivery of my Rt hon Friend the Prime Minister's 10 point plan. It includes a wide range of leading experts in climate, economic sectors, science, systems thinking, and links to industries that can help in the transition to net zero. Attendance for the roundtable held on the 26th May will be published through the usual quarterly ministerial transparency reporting. Future meeting dates have yet to be set. Achieving net zero is a top priority for the government. Government has met and continues to talk to a wide range of individuals and organisations to get the best advice possible. Here
13/06/21	Press release	Defra	Government sets out commitments to biodiversity and sustainability in G7 Nature Compact. Here
14/06/21	Press release	HM Treasury	Government commits to 'nature-positive' future in response to Dasgupta review. Here
14/06/21	Press release	HoL Environment & Climate Change Committee	New committee launches new inquiries: COP15 and COP26. The new House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Committee is launching its first inquiries, focussing on two key global events due to take place later this year: the fifteenth meeting of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), and the twenty-sixth UN Climate Change conference (COP26). More here

14/06/21	Written statement	HM Treasury	<p>Government response to 'The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review'</p> <p>HM Treasury has published a written ministerial statement on the Government response to 'The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review'. Here</p>
15/06/21	Written answers	HM Treasury	<p>Carbon Emissions: Tax Allowances - UIN 14019</p> <p>Dr Rupa Hug, Ealing Central and Acton (Lab): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of making voluntary emissions reduction certificates tax deductible.</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con): The Government recognises that for the UK to reach net zero emissions in 2050, removing emissions, or greenhouse gas removals will be necessary to offset residual emissions in hard-to-abate sectors, as advised by the Climate Change Committee. To deepen our evidence base on greenhouse gas removals and the existing market for voluntary emissions removals, and to support future policy development, BEIS and HM Treasury launched a Call for Evidence on Greenhouse Gas Removals in December last year. This Call for Evidence sought views from stakeholders on the role of Government in incentivising their development and deployment, including the role of tax incentives. A summary of responses to this Call for Evidence will be published in due course. Here</p>
15/06/21	Oral evidence	EFRA select committee	<p>Oral evidence session summary: Tree Planting and Woodlands. Here</p>
15/06/21	Oral evidence	BEIS committee	<p>Oral evidence session: Findings of the Report of Climate Assembly UK. More here</p>
16/06/21	Written answers	HoL/HM Treasury	<p>Financial Services: Carbon Emissions - UIN HL745</p> <p>Baroness Hayman: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the Greenpeace UK and WWF -UK report The Big Smoke, published on 26 May, what assessment they have made of the recommendation that legislation should be introduced before COP26 to require all UK-regulated financial institutions to adopt and implement a transition plan that is in keeping with the goal of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5 degrees C.</p> <p>Lord Agnew of Oulton: The UK was the first major economy to commit to Net Zero by 2050, and to achieve that ambition, we want to ensure that every financial decision takes climate change into account. This will</p>

			require a drastic increase in the quantity, quality and comparability of climate-related disclosures, to provide the information necessary for everyone to make informed decisions. More here
16/06/21	Press release	CCC	UK struggling to keep pace with climate change impacts Action to improve the nation's resilience is failing to keep pace with the impacts of a warming planet and increasing climate risks facing the UK. That is the conclusion of a comprehensive independent assessment led by the Climate Change Committee (CCC) which considered a catalogue of risks and opportunities affecting every aspect of life in the UK. Here
16/06/21	Report	CCC	The Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk. Here
16/06/21	Press release	Environmental Audit Committee	EAC reaction to Climate Change Committee: Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk Here
17/06/21	Press release	Natural England	Nature recovery at heart of Natural England vision for year ahead: Natural England has released its 2021/22 Action Plan to help the nation build back greener in the year ahead. Here
21/06/21	Press release	HCLG Committee	Committee examines how local government can deliver net zero targets: The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee holds the opening session of its new inquiry into local government and the path to net zero on Monday 21 June when it takes evidence from representatives of the Local Government Association, Royal Institute of British Architects, the Green Alliance and UK 100. Here
21/06/21	Written answers	Defra	Carbon Emissions: Environment Protection - UIN 16267 Virginia Crosbie, Ynys Môn (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of including data about blue carbon ecosystems in the (a) greenhouse gas inventory and (b) Nationally Determined Contribution calculations. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The UK greenhouse gas (GHG) Inventory will be used to report progress against the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). UK NDC performance will be assessed in 2032 based on the UK 1990-2030 GHG Inventory submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

			<p>The UK does not currently have the required data to report on anthropogenic activities impacting saltmarsh and seagrass (blue carbon habitats), as set out in the 2013 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Wetlands Supplement, and they are therefore not currently included in the UK GHG Inventory. We continue to build the evidence base on blue carbon habitats to help inform future, robust GHG reporting and accounting.</p> <p>The Government recognises the role that blue carbon habitats, such as saltmarsh and seagrass, can play to prevent biodiversity loss and support adaptation and resilience to climate change, alongside carbon sequestration benefits. The importance of marine habitats was acknowledged in the UK NDC's information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding, as well as in the UK's Adaptation Communication. Here</p>
21/06/21	Written answers	BEIS	<p>Energy: Greenhouse Gas Emissions - UIN 15386</p> <p>Afzal Khan, Manchester, Gorton (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of the IEA report entitled Net Zero by 2050, A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector; and whether his Department plans to take steps in response to its conclusions.</p> <p>Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con): We welcome the IEA's Net Zero by 2050 report, which sets out a clear roadmap to net zero emissions and shares many of the priorities we have committed to in the UK's Energy White Paper and my Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, as well as in our role as COP Presidency. In addition to our existing ambitious plans, we will publish a new comprehensive Net Zero Strategy in the lead up to COP26, setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy by 2050, making the most of new growth and employment opportunities across the UK. Here</p>
21/06/21	Oral evidence	HCLG committee	Oral evidence session: Local government and the path to net zero. More here
24/06/21	Press release	CCC	Time is running out for realistic climate commitments. The Government has made

			historic climate promises in the past year, for which it deserves credit. However, it has been too slow to follow these with delivery. Here
24/06/21	Written Ministerial statement	Defra	The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a written ministerial statement on Government response to the Landscapes Review. Here
24/06/21	Press release	EAC	Environmental Audit Committee Chair reacts to climate change progress report. "The Climate Change Committee's progress report offers a frank assessment of the Government's environmental progress to date. The UK has made much headway in creating a cleaner electricity system over the last decade, but we have a long way to go to clean up transport, industry and our homes and buildings. The Covid crisis has clearly diverted Government from this task. But now we must move beyond warm words: now is the time for policies that deliver strong incentives to cut carbon across the economy. More here
25/06/21	Press release	EAC	EAC to monitor net zero plans across Government departments in run up to COP26. The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) has today launched a new workstream focused on the Government's net zero strategy. The announcement follows the Climate Change Committee's warning that time is running out for realistic climate commitments. Here
28/06/21	Written answers	BEIS	Greenhouse Gas Emissions - UIN 18536 Neil Coyle, Bermondsey and Old Southwark (Lab) : To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when his Department plans to publish the Pathway to Net Zero strategy. Anne-Marie Trevelyan, Berwick-upon-Tweed (Con) : We will publish a comprehensive Net Zero Strategy ahead of COP26, setting out the Government's vision for transitioning to a net zero economy. This will raise ambition as we outline our path to meet net zero by 2050, our Carbon Budgets and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Here
28/06/21	Written answers	HM Treasury	Net Zero Review - UIN 20472 Matthew Pennycook, Greenwich and Woolwich (Lab) : To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 24 May 2021 to Question 3084 on Net Zero Review, when he plans to publish the final report of his Department's Net Zero Review.

			<p><u>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con):</u> HM Treasury 's Net Zero Review final report will be published in due course, and in advance of COP26. It will be an analytical report that uses existing data to explore the key issues and trade-offs as the UK decarbonises. Against a backdrop of significant uncertainty on technology and costs, as well as changes to the economy over the next 30 years, it focuses on the potential exposure of households and sectors to the transition, and highlights factors to be taken into account in designing policy that will allocate costs over this time horizon. In line with the Review's terms of reference, the report will not include policy recommendations. The Review forms part of a cross-government effort to support the UK's transition to net zero. The government's Net Zero Strategy will be published later this year. Here</p>
29/06/21	Written answers	HM Treasury	<p>Net Zero Review - UIN 20583</p> <p><u>Alexander Stafford, Rother Valley (Con):</u> To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps he is taking to include an assessment of the potential economic merits of reaching net zero in his Net Zero Review; and when he plans to publish the final outcome of that review.</p> <p><u>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con):</u> HM Treasury's Net Zero Review final report will be published in due course, and in advance of COP26. It will be an analytical report that uses existing data to explore the key issues and trade-offs as the UK decarbonises. Against a backdrop of significant uncertainty on technology and costs, as well as changes to the economy over the next 30 years, it focuses on the potential exposure of households and sectors to the transition, and highlights factors to be taken into account in designing policy that will allocate costs over this time horizon. In line with the Review's terms of reference, the report will not include policy recommendations. The Review forms part of a cross-government effort to support the UK's transition to net zero. The government's Net Zero Strategy will be published later this year. Here</p>
29/06/21	Written answers	HM Treasury	<p>Carbon Emissions: Public Expenditure - UIN 20584</p> <p><u>Alexander Stafford, Rother Valley (Con):</u> To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what steps his Department is taking to align</p>

			<p>departmental comprehensive spending review submissions with the Government's net zero target.</p> <p><u>Kemi Badenoch, Saffron Walden (Con):</u> The Government takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously. On 27 June 2020 the UK became the first major economy in the world to legislate to end its contribution to global warming by 2050, increasing the ambition of our commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Climate Change Act 2008. At Spending Review 2020, HMT asked departments to provide the greenhouse gas emissions of their spending proposals, their impact on meeting Carbon Budgets and Net Zero, and information relating to delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan. This was considered as part of funding allocations made at SR20. HMT is reviewing the learning from this exercise and these issues will remain at the forefront of HMT 's priorities for this year. The details of Spending Review 2021 will be announced in due course. Here</p>
30/06/21	Press release	EAC	<p>Toothless Government policy and targets insufficient to stem the tide of UK biodiversity loss. The Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) urges the Government to conserve and restore UK biodiversity and ecosystems amid grave concern that of the G7 countries, the UK has the lowest level of biodiversity remaining. Here</p>

25 year Environment Bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
03/06/21	Press release	LGA	<p>Environment Bill, House of Lords, Second Reading, 7 June 2021. We welcome the reintroduction of the Environment Bill. A legacy of the COVID-19 pandemic must be that we, as a nation, grasp the opportunity to protect and enhance our natural environment, and tackle the climate emergency. Here</p>
07/06/21	Press release	Defra	<p>First new board members of Office for Environmental Protection. Here</p>
07/06/21	Debates	HoL/Defra	<p>Environment Bill - Session 2021-2022 Second Reading Moved by: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park (The Minister of State, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) My Lords, I declare my interests as set out in the</p>

			register. I am delighted to commence Second Reading. More here
09/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Financial Services and Food Supply: Carbon Emissions - UIN 10716</p> <p>Virginia Crosbie, Ynys Môn (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing a statutory deforestation target for UK supply food and commodity supply chains; and what steps he is taking to bind the finance industry into net-zero and Paris Agreement targets.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): There is no requirement in the Environment Bill for a deforestation target. This does not preclude the Government from setting one if it is judged to be the best way to deliver long-term environmental outcomes. The Bill framework allows for long-term targets to be set on any aspect of the natural environment, or people's enjoyment of it. The Government is committed to setting targets through a robust, evidence-led process that seeks independent expert advice, provides a role for stakeholders and the public, as well as scrutiny from Parliament.</p> <p>We have commissioned the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to develop a global environmental footprint indicator to help us understand the UK's global footprint. The first phase of this work was published in May 2021, with further development following in the summer. The outcomes of this work will help inform our future thinking on the most appropriate approach to drive change in this area. On finance, delivering our net zero objective will require deep decarbonisation of all sectors. We know that financial services will be a critical enabler in mobilizing green investment at the pace and scale required – and that is why green finance is a key priority for this Government.</p> <p>Furthermore, the UK will become the first G20 country to make Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures-aligned disclosures fully mandatory across the economy, with most requirements introduced in the next three years. The Government is also actively supporting the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures. Finally, the UK will implement a</p>

			green taxonomy, a common framework for determining which activities can be defined as environmentally sustainable, which will improve understanding of the environmental impact of firms' activities and investments. Here
10/06/21	Oral answers	HoL/Defra	<p>Environment Bill: Royal Assent Baroness Young of Old Scone: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend for the Environment Bill to be presented for Royal Assent before the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties commences on 1 November.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park (The Minister of State, Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office): My Lords, our landmark Environment Bill was officially reintroduced in the Commons following the Queen's Speech at the start of May. The Bill completed its passage through the Commons and entered the Lords at the end of May. First and Second Reading have been completed. We have publicly committed to Royal Assent by autumn as a key part of our domestic and international environment agenda ahead of COP 26. More here</p>
11/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Nature Conservation - UIN 7783 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that nature recovery opportunities identified by Local Nature Recovery Strategies can be delivered on the ground.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be delivered in several ways, including through biodiversity net gain and the strengthened biodiversity duty introduced in the Environment Bill. Future schemes that reward farmers and other land managers for producing environmental benefits, including Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery, will also be key mechanisms for delivering the opportunities for nature recovery identified in the Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Local Nature Recovery Strategies have been piloted in five areas across England. They have tested how Local Nature Recovery Strategies and environmental land management priorities can be developed concurrently, maximising the</p>

			benefit for the environment and people. Here
18/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Nature Conservation - UIN 13260 Dr Kieran Mullan, Crewe and Nantwich (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to protect native species and wildlife in England.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Towards our ambition to protect our native species and address biodiversity loss in England, we will be amending the Environment Bill to require an additional target for species abundance for 2030, aiming to halt the decline in nature. The Bill also introduces a range of ambitious measures including, for example, mandatory biodiversity net gain in the planning system. Furthermore, we will publish a Green Paper later in 2021, setting out how our protections framework might better deliver this and our wider domestic ambitions.</p> <p>We are also looking to the action needed on the ground and continuing to work with stakeholders to determine the specific actions that will be paid for by our new schemes that will reward environmental land management. We are launching at least 10 long-term Landscape Recovery projects between 2022 and 2024 to restore wilder landscapes through long-term land use change and support the establishment of a Nature Recovery Network.</p> <p>Additionally, the Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership is currently bringing together representatives from over 400 organisations to drive forward the restoration of protected sites and landscapes and help create or restore at least 500,000 hectares of new wildlife-rich habitat across England. The £80 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund has also kick-started a pipeline of nature-based projects to restore nature, tackle climate change and connect people with the natural environment. Here</p>
18/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Nappies: Environment Protection - UIN 13219 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to tackle the</p>

			<p>environmental impact of single-use nappies.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> In line with the 25 Year Environment Plan, and our Resources and Waste Strategy, we are considering the best approach to minimise the environmental impact of a range of products, including nappies, taking on board the environmental and social impacts of the options available. Potential additional policy measures include standards, consumer information and encouraging voluntary action by business. We are seeking powers, through the Environment Bill, that will enable us to, where appropriate and subject to consultation, introduce eco-design and consumer information requirements. This could include labelling schemes that provide accurate information to consumers, to drive the market towards more sustainable products.</p> <p>We are also funding an environmental assessment of disposable and washable absorbent hygiene products (AHPs) with the primary focus on nappies. This is looking at the waste and energy impacts of washable and disposable products, disposal to landfill or incineration, and recycling options. The research will be published later this year, following peer review, and will help inform possible future action on nappies by Government and industry. <u>Here</u></p>
18/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Plastics – UIN 13269</p> <p><u>Dr Kieran Mullan, Crewe and Nantwich (Con):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to reduce the use of plastics.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste. We are making great strides to tackle plastic pollution across the country. In December 2018 we published the Resources and Waste Strategy, which sets out how we want to achieve this and move towards a circular economy and keep resources in the system for as long as possible. In October 2020, we introduced measures to restrict the supply of plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, and plastic-stemmed cotton buds. The single-use carrier bag charge, which has led to a</p>

			<p>95% reduction in the use of single-use carrier bags by the main supermarkets, has been increased to 10p and extended to all retailers to encourage customers to bring their own bags to carry shopping and reduce the volumes of single-use plastic being used. At Budget 2020 the Chancellor announced the tax on plastic packaging of £200 per tonne for plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content, effective from April 2022.</p> <p>Our Environment Bill will enable us to significantly change the way that we manage our waste and take forward a number of the proposals from the Resources and Waste Strategy. The Bill will include powers to create Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes; introduce Deposit Return Schemes (DRS); establish greater consistency in the recycling system; better control the export of plastic waste; and give us the power to set new charges for other single-use plastic items. Our consultations on an EPR scheme for packaging and a DRS for drinks containers closed on 4 June and our consultation on our proposals for consistency in the recycling system in England is open for responses until July. More details can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/environment/waste-and-recycling.</p> <p>The Government has put together a package of over £100 million for research and innovation to tackle the issues that arise from plastic waste. £38 million was set aside through the Plastics Research and Innovation Fund, the last funding competition of which opened in June 2020. The Resource Action Fund included £10 million specifically to pioneer innovative approaches to boosting recycling and reducing litter. The Government has also announced £60million of funding through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, alongside a £150 million investment from industry, towards the development of smart, sustainable plastic packaging (SSPP), which will aim to make the UK a world leader in sustainable packaging for consumer products. Two SSPP funding opportunities have been open for bids in 2021: the SSPP Demonstrator Round 2 and</p>
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			<p>the SSPP business-led research and development competition.</p> <p>Science estimates that the annual plastic flow into the ocean will triple between 2016 and 2040. Due to the scale of the marine litter challenge the UK believes it is time to negotiate a new global agreement on marine litter and microplastics at the United Nations Environment Assembly. A new global agreement would build upon the important work we are doing to tackle marine litter both domestically and internationally and support our commitments to eliminate plastic entering the ocean. Here</p>
21/06/21	Debate	HoL	<p>Environment Bill - Volume 813 Debate here</p>
22/06/21	Report	HoL	<p>The House of Lords Constitution Committee has published a report on the Environment Bill. Here</p>
23/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Nappies: Environment Protection and Recycling - UIN 16219 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of Schedule 6 on Resource efficiency information of the Environment Bill on the (a) environmental impact of single-use nappies and (b) uptake of reusable alternatives. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): At this stage we have not carried out a specific assessment of the potential to use Schedule 6 of the Environment Bill to address the environmental impact of single-use nappies or the uptake of reusable alternatives. The powers being sought through the Environment Bill would enable us to introduce eco-design and consumer information requirements for a range of products, including nappies, to drive the market towards more sustainable goods. However, we have not considered to date whether there are strong grounds for using those powers in relation to nappies. As with any new policy, if a proposal were to be developed, this would be subject to consultation and a full assessment of the costs and benefits. Here</p>
29/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Plastics: Regulation UIN 22033 Fleur Anderson, Putney (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of introducing (a) a target to reduce</p>

			<p>the use of single plastic by 50 per cent by 2025 and (b) other legally binding targets to substantially reduce waste at source.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042. We are making great strides to tackle plastic pollution. In December 2018 we published the Resources and Waste Strategy, which sets out how we want to achieve this and move towards a circular economy. Our approach is focused on increasing supply and demand for secondary materials to be recycled in the UK. We know more needs to be done, and for the most problematic plastics we are going faster - which is why we have committed to work towards all plastic packaging on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.</p> <p>The UK Government has a manifesto commitment to ban exports of plastic waste to non- OECD countries. The Government has committed to consult on this measure and work to deliver this is underway. Defra has commissioned research to have a better understanding of plastic waste recycling capacity in the UK and OECD member countries, and this research will be key to the development of policy options to implement the manifesto commitment. We currently plan to consult before the end of 2022 on options to deliver the proposed ban.</p> <p>Legitimate imports of plastic waste into the UK will be destined for recovery operations. The UK Government does not permit the import of plastic waste for disposal. The UK Government has not assessed the benefits of a ban on plastic waste imports and has no plans to do so.</p> <p>The Environment Bill includes a requirement for the Government to set at least one long-term target on resource efficiency and waste reduction. This target will take a holistic approach to reduce consumption of all materials, including plastics, increasing resource productivity and reducing the volume of waste we generate. Work is already underway to develop these targets. In order to help guide the Government, the Resources and Waste Targets Expert Group has been</p>
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			<p>formed. More information can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/resources-and-waste-targets-expert-group.</p> <p>Moreover, the Government is exploring packaging recycling targets under our proposals for extended producer responsibility for packaging. The consultation on our more detailed proposals closed on the 4 June. Here</p>

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Food: Waste Disposal - UIN 6297 <u>Andrew Bridgen, North West Leicestershire (Con):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to support local authorities undertaking food waste collections.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> We want to make recycling easier and ensure that there is a comprehensive, consistent service across England. This will help to reduce confusion with recycling, ensure that there is more recycled material in the products we buy and that the UK recycling industry grows. It would also constitute a significant step towards meeting our 25 Year Environment Plan commitment to eliminate avoidable waste by 2050 and contribute towards meeting recycling targets, including our commitment of 65% of municipal (household-like) waste to be recycled by 2035.</p> <p>Following support at public consultation, the Environment Bill stipulates that all local authorities in England must make arrangements for a core set of materials to be collected for recycling from households. This includes a weekly separate food waste collection. On 7 May we published a second consultation seeking further views on recycling consistency, including setting out implementation timelines for food waste collection and asking questions on the provision of caddy liners to householders. Local authorities will be able to decide the end destination for food waste and garden waste, provided that the material is recycled or composted. One option is anaerobic digestion which presents the</p>

			<p>best environmental outcome for the treatment of unavoidable food waste, due to the generation of biofuel and digestate.</p> <p>Any new financial burdens introduced through new statutory duties on local authorities will be assessed and the net additional cost covered by the Government. We are working to assess net additional costs to local authorities and will continue to engage with local authorities on the cost estimates that we have provided in the impact assessment accompanying the second consultation on recycling consistency, as well as the appropriate timing for funding to be provided to local authorities, ahead of introduction of recycling consistency reforms. Here</p>
02/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Plastics: Recycling - UIN 6171</p> <p>Gareth Thomas, Harrow West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what proportion of plastic packaging used in the UK has been recycled in the UK in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): It is illegal under retained EU law to export UK waste for disposal to countries outside the European Union and the European Free Trade Area. Individuals and businesses found to be exporting waste in contravention of the requirements of the UK legislation can face a two-year jail term and an unlimited fine. In addition, the export of UK waste for disposal to EU / EFTA countries is generally prohibited, save for the strictly limited exceptions which are laid out in the UK Plan for Shipments of Waste. Proposed updates to the Plan were consulted upon earlier this year and the revised UK Plan will be published next month. The UK Government is committed to banning the export of plastic waste for recycling to countries that are not members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The Government will consult on this measure and work is underway to make this happen.</p> <p>The UK environmental regulators take a pro-active, intelligence led approach to</p>

			<p>checking compliance with the legislation on waste shipments, targeting exports which pose a high risk and intervening to stop illegal exports taking place. In 2019-20 the Environment Agency (EA) stopped 1,889 containers at ports and intervened at waste loading sites, preventing the illegal export of 463 containers comprising 22,688 tonnes of waste.</p> <p>In addition, the regulators undertake rigorous checks to ensure businesses accredited as exporters of packaging waste under the Packaging Waste Regulations comply with their conditions of accreditation, this includes verifying evidence that exported waste is recycled. Conditions of accreditation have been tightened to require an exporter to provide the EA with full details of the final overseas reprocessing sites receiving packaging waste it exports and to provide access to export documentation to prove that the material reached or was accepted by these overseas reprocessing sites. In 2020 the EA cancelled the accreditation of 4 exporters and suspended 7 accreditations Government is consulting currently on reforms to the packaging producer responsibility system which includes proposals for new requirements on those exporting packaging waste for recycling.</p> <p>We are also taking action to reduce the volume of waste generated in the first place. The Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) for England, published in December 2018, sets out the Government's plans to reduce, reuse, and recycle more plastic than we do now. Our target is to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste throughout the life of the 25 Year Environment Plan, but for the most problematic plastics we are going faster - which is why we have committed to work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025. We also committed to introducing electronic waste tracking to help us understand where waste is within the system. That will help to tackle illegal movements and misdescription of waste.</p> <p>We have made significant progress, by introducing one of the world's toughest</p>
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			<p>bans on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products and have significantly reduced the use of single-use carrier bags by the main supermarket retailers by 95% with our 5p charge. The charge increased to 10p and was extended to all businesses on 21 May 2021. In October 2020, we introduced measures to restrict the supply of plastic straws, plastic drink stirrers, and plastic-stemmed cotton buds. We will continue to review the latest evidence on problematic products and/ or materials to take a systematic approach to reducing the use of unnecessary single-use plastic products, including problematic packaging materials. Furthermore, from April 2022, plastic packaging that does not contain at least 30% recycled content will be subject to a tax of £200/tonne. Further details on the development of this tax can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-plastic-packaging-tax/plastic-packaging-tax#detailed-proposal</p> <p>Our Environment Bill will enable us to significantly change the way that we manage our waste and implement proposals from the Resources and Waste Strategy. The Bill includes powers to create extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes; introduce deposit return schemes (DRS); establish greater consistency in the recycling system; better control the export of plastic waste; and to set new charges for other single-use plastic items. Our approach is focused on encouraging greater uptake of reusable alternatives and increasing supply and demand for secondary materials to be recycled in the UK. We have set new targets for plastic packaging to be recycled (to 2023) and we are currently consulting on a Deposit Return Scheme for drinks containers, an Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for packaging, and our proposals for greater consistency in household and business recycling. Here</p>
10/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Recycling - UIN 11604 Dr Rupa Huq, Ealing Central and Acton (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a deposit return scheme in England.</p>

			<p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government remains committed to introducing a deposit return scheme for drinks containers. We recently undertook a second consultation on introducing the deposit return scheme, in which we set out timelines for the scheme to go live.</p> <p>We want to have an ambitious but realistic timetable to ensure that we are implementing a deposit return scheme that will be as effective as possible in achieving our objectives. We have therefore reviewed the timelines required to implement a deposit return scheme and currently anticipate that the scheme would launch in 2024, subject to the outcome of the second consultation and parliamentary passage of the Environment Bill. We are now analysing responses to the consultation and will set out next steps in due course. Here</p>
11/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Plastics: Packaging - UIN 7940</p> <p>Stuart Anderson, Wolverhampton South West (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to reduce the amount of plastic used in packaging.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): Through powers being taken in the Environment Bill, the Government intends to introduce Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging. These measures will place the cost of managing packaging waste on those businesses that place packaged goods on the UK market.</p> <p>In doing so we will incentivise businesses to think carefully about how they can reduce the packaging they use, design and use packaging that is easily recyclable, and encourage more use of reusable and refillable packaging. For plastic that is used in packaging, we want more of it to be recycled. Producers will be required to meet higher plastic packaging recycling targets and through our measures that we are consulting on currently for more consistent recycling collections in England, all households and businesses will be able to recycle rigid plastic packaging. We are also consulting on the inclusion of plastic film and flexible plastic packaging in the core set of materials for collection in England. Here</p>

14/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Waste Disposal: Digital Technology - UIN 10182</p> <p><u>Mr Kevan Jones, North Durham (Lab):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with reference to the Serious and organised waste crime: 2018 review published by his Department on 14 November 2018, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of the recommendation on the mandatory electronic tracking of waste.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> The Government addressed the recommendations set out in the review into serious and organised waste crime through the Resources and Waste Strategy. This committed to mandating the electronic tracking of waste, subject to consultation. The Environment Bill includes powers to introduce mandatory waste tracking and a consultation is planned for later this year. In parallel we asked five organisations to explore and develop ideas for waste tracking using the Government's GovTech Catalyst Challenge Fund. The feasibility projects included research into tracking waste through electronic chips and sensors, the use of blockchain, and open data standards, as well as new data analytics and the use of artificial intelligence, to help users decide what to do with the waste they produce. We also conducted further user research to improve our understanding of the reporting requirements of businesses, local authorities, regulators and Government. This information has helped inform the development of the consultation and define the functionality of a future digital service. Here</p>
14/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Waste Disposal: Transport - UIN 10575</p> <p><u>Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Slough (Lab):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the amount of CO2 produced by transporting waste produced in the UK outside of the UK.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> The UK Government has not made any assessment of CO 2 produced by the export of UK waste. The UK monitors and reports emissions from the shipping industry through the National Emissions Inventory but this information is not</p>

			<p>disaggregated to the level of individual cargo movements.</p> <p>The export of UK waste for disposal is generally prohibited, save for the strictly limited exceptions which are laid out in the UK Plan for Shipments of Waste. Under the UK legislation on waste shipments, businesses involved in the export of wastes are required to take all necessary steps to ensure that the waste they ship is managed in an environmentally sound manner throughout its shipment and during its recycling. All waste exports need to be made in accordance with the relevant legislation and we have a system of inspections in place to verify compliance. The regulators mount targeted inspections at UK ports working with the shipping sector to help detect and prevent illegal waste shipments. Individuals and businesses found to be exporting waste in contravention of the requirements in the legislation waste can face a two-year jail term and an unlimited fine.</p> <p>We have pledged to introduce tougher controls on waste exports, and the Environment Bill includes a power to introduce mandatory electronic tracking of waste which will make it harder for criminals to obtain and export waste illegally. We are also taking action to reduce the volume of waste generated in the first place. Our approach is focused on encouraging greater uptake of reusable alternatives and increasing supply and demand for secondary materials to be recycled in the UK. The Resources and Waste Strategy for England, published in December 2018, sets out the Government's plans to reduce, reuse, and recycle more than we do now. Our target is to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste throughout the life of the 25 Year Environment Plan, but for the most problematic plastics we are going faster - which is why we have committed to work towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025. Here</p>
15/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Recycling: Labelling - UIN 11667 Ruth Jones, Newport West (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food</p>

			<p>and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to ensure that the Environment Bill 's mandatory recycling labelling provisions will be aligned with best in class existing clear and well-recognised consumers recycling labels.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> As set out in our recent consultation on extended producer responsibility for packaging (which closed on 4 June 2021), our preferred approach to implement mandatory recyclability labelling for packaging includes that labels must meet criteria set in regulations and will have to be approved by the Government or the regulator prior to use. This will ensure a clear and consistent approach to mandatory recyclability labelling for packaging. Our preferred approach provides flexibility for existing recycling labels to continue to be used subject to meeting the criteria set in regulations and approved by the Government or the regulator.</p> <p>The Government recognises that a variety of labels can cause consumer confusion. However, alongside mandatory recyclability labelling there will be producer-led communication campaigns which will help to raise consumer awareness regarding what packaging can and cannot be recycled.</p> <p>Last year, Defra commissioned the Waste and Resources Action Programme to review the available evidence regarding the social impact of labelling in the context of extended producer responsibility schemes and to provide an analysis of the current available evidence of on-pack labelling on consumer disposal behaviour. Key findings of the review include that consumer recycling behaviour can be influenced by a well-designed label along with recommendations regarding what the best performing label would look like. Findings in this review will be taken into consideration when developing and implementing mandatory recycling labelling as part of extended producer responsibility for packaging.</p> <p>In addition, the Competition and Markets Authority is currently consulting on draft</p>
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			guidance on environmental claims on goods and services. This includes guidance on recyclability claims made on labels. Here
16/06/21	Written answers	DfT	<p>Roads: Litter - UIN 13909 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect of a transfer of responsibility for litter clearance for all All-Purpose Trunk Roads in all local authority areas to Highways England on (a) the environmental impact of roadside litter and (b) access arrangements for maintenance.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean, Redditch (Con): The Department is working closely with Highways England and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to determine the potential effects of any transfer of responsibility for roadside litter clearance on All-Purpose Trunk Roads from Local Authorities to Highways England, in relation to cost, effectiveness of litter clearance and safe access for regular road maintenance. This work is ongoing.</p> <p>It is important to take a proportionate, evidence-based approach which recognises the pressures on Local Authority resources and costs associated with roadside litter clearance, especially considering the pressures which they have faced in the last year. At present, the Department has no plans to transfer responsibility of litter clearance of All-Purpose Trunk Roads on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) to Highways England. DEFRA is due to publish a roadside litter report on All-Purpose Trunk Roads shortly and this may inform future work in reallocating responsibility for managing relevant cleaning activities from any Local Authority that is not fulfilling its statutory duties on the road network. Here</p>
17/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Farmers: Fly tipping - UIN 901419 Gordon Henderson, Sittingbourne and Sheppey (Con): What steps he is taking to help protect farmers from fly-tipping. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): We are preparing new legislation to tackle waste crime, such as fly-tipping. This includes reforming how those transporting waste are regulated and introducing mandatory electronic tracking of waste,</p>

			<p>subject to consultation. The Environment Bill will also ensure authorities have better access to evidence and improved powers of entry. The Defra -chaired National Fly-Tipping Prevention Group works with the National Farmers Union and others to share advice on how to prevent fly-tipping on private land. Here</p>
18/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Recycling - UIN 13264 Dr Kieran Mullan, Crewe and Nantwich (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking to increase recycling rates.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): In 2019, the Government published our Resources and Waste Strategy, which included our commitment to a target of 65% of municipal waste to be recycled by 2035. To help us achieve this target, we have committed to introducing major reforms to the waste sector: Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (EPR), a deposit return scheme for drinks containers (DRS); and consistency in household and business recycling collections.</p> <p>We published consultations for these measures in 2019. Following support for the proposals in the consultations, the Environment Bill sets out the primary legislation to establish these reforms. We published second consultations on these reforms in 2021, which provide further detail on the policies consulted on previously, including implementation timelines for the introduction of these new measures. The consultation on consistency in household and business recycling is still open and closes on 4 July 2021: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/consistency-in-household-and-business-recycling/. Collectively, these reforms will help to increase the quantity and quality of material recycled. They will also help to increase participation in recycling by reducing confusion over what can be recycled and making it easier to recycle both at home and away from home. Here</p>
23/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Plastics: Packaging - UIN 16241 Feryal Clark, Enfield North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will hold discussions with Ministers of the Department for</p>

		<p>International Trade on the finding that plastic packaging and bags from seven of the top 10 UK supermarkets have been found at multiple sites across south-west Turkey as set out in Greenpeace 's report, Trashed: how the UK is still dumping plastic waste on the rest of the world, published in May 2021; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): It is illegal to export waste from the UK to be dumped or burned overseas. Under the UK legislation on waste shipments, businesses involved in the export of wastes are required to take all necessary steps to ensure that the waste they ship is managed in an environmentally sound manner throughout its shipment and during its recycling. The Environment Agency (EA), as the competent authority for waste shipments for England, has been proactively engaging with the authorities in Turkey on the issue of illegal plastic waste exports over the past year. The Environment Agency has liaised with Greenpeace, following their recent report, in order to seek information which could assist them with their compliance monitoring and enforcement of waste exports to Turkey.</p> <p>All waste exports need to be made in accordance with the relevant legislation and the UK regulators have a system of inspections in place to verify compliance under the waste exports and packaging regimes respectively. Over the last 12 months, monitoring by the Environment Agency (EA) has had a particular focus on preventing illegal plastic waste exports. In 2020, the EA prevented the illegal export of 46 shipping containers of plastic waste to Turkey, this year they have already prevented the illegal export of 122 containers of plastic waste to Turkey. The EA also currently has four active investigations into illegal waste exports to Turkey. The Environment Agency (EA) has developed a good relationship with the Turkish Ministry of Environment, who have expressed their thanks for the UK's collaborative approach in preventing illegal exports of waste to Turkey. Turkey has now banned the import of most plastic wastes.</p>
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			<p>The UK government has pledged to introduce tougher controls on illegal waste exports, and the Environment Bill includes a power to introduce mandatory electronic tracking of waste which will make it harder for criminals to obtain and export waste illegally. We plan to launch a consultation on this in the Autumn. Within this context, Defra is working with the Department for International Trade on supporting the development of more plastic processing infrastructure within the UK to reduce the need to export these materials to other countries, such as Turkey. The Government is also committed to a bringing forward a ban on plastic exports to non- OECD countries. Here</p>
23/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p><u>Domestic Waste: Recycling - UIN 16060 Caroline Lucas, Brighton, Pavilion (Green):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what information he holds on the proportion of waste from household (ex NI-192) recorded by local authorities as collected and sent for reuse, recycling, composting or treatment by anaerobic digestion that is successfully reused, recycled, composted or treated by anaerobic digestion.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con):</u> Defra publishes an annual national statistics release and datasets relating to the collection and disposal of local authority collected waste. The most recent statistics show that 45.5 per cent of 'waste from households' in England was sent for recycling, reuse, composting or anaerobic digestion in 2019. The (ex-192) performance indicator measure of recycling (including reuse, composting, and anaerobic digestion) relates specifically to the 'household' waste definition. Figures for 2019/20 are available within Table 3a of the published dataset.</p> <p>'Waste from households' has a slightly different definition to 'household' waste and details of these differences can be found in the Glossary of Terms section of the statistical notice. 'Household' waste collected for recycling, reuse, composting or anaerobic digestion, which was then rejected by sorting facilities or at the gates of a reprocessor, was estimated to be around 525 thousand tonnes (5 per cent)</p>

			<p>of all material collected for recycling, reuse, composting or anaerobic digestion in 2019/20. This rejected material is diverted to the residual waste stream and does not count towards recycling rates. Defra does not publish this figure on a 'waste from households' basis.</p> <p>The Environment Bill stipulates that all local authorities in England must make arrangements for a core set of materials to be collected for recycling from households. This will help to improve the quality and recycling value of the materials collected and, alongside reforms on labelling, will reduce confusion over the materials that can and cannot be recycled. Here</p>
25/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Plastics: Packaging - UIN 17812 Mr Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Slough (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 11 June 2021 to Question 7904 on Plastics: Supermarkets, what steps he is taking to incentivise supermarkets and other companies to reduce their use of (a) single-use and (b) general plastics in each of the financial years (i) 2021-22, (ii) 2022-23, (iii) 2023-24 and (iv) 2024-25.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042, which encompasses single-use plastic waste. I would also refer to the Answer of 11 June 2021 to Question 7904, as many of the actions set out there will incentivise businesses. We are making great strides to tackle plastic pollution across the country. In December 2018, we published the Resources and Waste Strategy, which set out how we want to achieve this and move towards a circular economy which keeps resources in the system for as long as possible. The Resources and Waste Strategy also sets out a timeline for action, although in some instances the impact of Covid-19 has led to delays. In clearly laying out the Government's position and direction, we intend to provide industry with the confidence to take action to reduce their use of plastics.</p>

			<p>Indeed, industry is acting. The UK Plastics Pact was jointly founded by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Ellen McArthur Foundation and is supported by the Government. The Pact brings together organisations from across the plastics supply chain, with four key targets for 2025 that aim to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated. Members of the Pact account for two-thirds of consumer plastic packaging in the UK. Alongside our support for voluntary action by industry, the Government is taking regulatory action. The single-use carrier bag charge, which has led to a 95% reduction in the use of single-use carrier bags by the main supermarkets, has been increased to 10p and extended to all retailers to encourage customers to bring their own bags to carry shopping and reduce the volumes of single-use plastic being used.</p> <p>We have included a number of measures in the Environment Bill to enable us, through regulations, to tackle plastics and plastic waste. These include 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. As well as this, the Bill gives us powers to provide consistent recycling services for household and businesses; ensure all packaging is labelled either 'recyclable' or 'not recyclable'; set requirements regarding design and material usage for products; and allows for us to control the export of plastic waste better.</p> <p>The Government is also reforming the packaging producer responsibility regulations and developing extended producer responsibility (EPR) for packaging. Our proposal is for the first phase of EPR to be established in 2023. EPR for packaging will see packaging producers paying for the waste management costs associated with the packaging that they place on the market. This will ensure producers are thinking about the necessity of any packaging they use. In developing EPR for packaging, we will also take consideration of how EPR for packaging</p>
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			<p>could be used to encourage packaging reuse and refill systems. The Government consultation on EPR for packaging closed on 4 June 2021: https://consult.defra.gov.uk/extended-producer-responsibility/extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging/. Here</p>
29/06/21	Written answers	Defra	<p>Plastics: Waste Disposal - UIN 21848 Bill Esterson, Sefton Central (Con): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies on the treatment of plastic waste of the Greenpeace Plastic Pledge; and whether he has plans to implement the recommendations set out in that pledge. Rebecca Pow, Taunton Deane (Con): The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan sets out our ambition to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by 2042. We are making great strides to tackle plastic pollution. In December 2018 we published the Resources and Waste Strategy, which sets out how we want to achieve this and move towards a circular economy. Our approach is focused on increasing supply and demand for secondary materials to be recycled in the UK. We know more needs to be done, and for the most problematic plastics we are going faster - which is why we have committed to work towards all plastic packaging on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.</p> <p>The UK Government has a manifesto commitment to ban exports of plastic waste to non- OECD countries. The Government has committed to consult on this measure and work to deliver this is underway. Defra has commissioned research to have a better understanding of plastic waste recycling capacity in the UK and OECD member countries, and this research will be key to the development of policy options to implement the manifesto commitment. We currently plan to consult before the end of 2022 on options to deliver the proposed ban.</p> <p>Legitimate imports of plastic waste into the UK will be destined for recovery operations. The UK Government does not permit the import of plastic waste for disposal. The UK Government has not</p>

			<p>assessed the benefits of a ban on plastic waste imports and has no plans to do so.</p> <p>The Environment Bill includes a requirement for the Government to set at least one long-term target on resource efficiency and waste reduction. This target will take a holistic approach to reduce consumption of all materials, including plastics, increasing resource productivity and reducing the volume of waste we generate. Work is already underway to develop these targets. In order to help guide the Government, the Resources and Waste Targets Expert Group has been formed. More information can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/resources-and-waste-targets-expert-group. Moreover, the Government is exploring packaging recycling targets under our proposals for extended producer responsibility for packaging. The consultation on our more detailed proposals closed on the 4 June. Here</p>

Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes

Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
08/06/21	Debate	HoL	<p>Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (England) (Amendment) Order 2021 Motion to Agree Moved by: Baroness Pinnock: That a Humble Address be presented to Her Majesty praying that the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development etc.) (England) (Amendment) Order 2021, laid before the House on 31 March, be annulled because it introduces a significant policy change without being subject to sufficient parliamentary scrutiny; it affects the ability of communities to have a say in important changes to their local areas; and it does not present an effective or sustainable solution to the housing crisis (SI 2021/428). Relevant document: 52nd Report from the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee,</p>

			Session 2019-21 (special attention drawn to the instrument) More here
10/06/21	Debate	HoC	<p>Land Banking – Vol 696 Christian Wakeford, Bury South (Con): We have spoken frequently both in this place and in Westminster Hall about protecting our green belt and about the need to build houses. Over the past few years, plans to build new homes on our precious areas of green spaces have become one of the biggest issues in my constituency, in Greater Manchester, and, indeed, across the country... I thank the Minister for having many discussions and for coping with my concerns and complaints about the impact of green-belt development. We really need to tackle some of these issues, especially the land banking issue, which I will be coming on to. More here</p>
21/06/21	Written answers	MHCLG	<p>Permitted Development Rights - UIN 16856 Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the impact of the extensions to Permitted Development Rights introduced by his Department on Business Rates revenues for local authorities. Christopher Pincher, Tamworth (Con): Permitted development rights are a national grant of planning permission and facilitate the diversification of our high streets and town centres and will help their recovery as the country re-opens. This will help to ensure the local tax base is maintained. Here</p>
21/06/21	Debate	HoC	<p>Planning Decisions: Local Involvement - Vol 697 Steve Reed, Croydon North (Lab): I beg to move, that this House believes planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes; and therefore, calls on the Government to protect the right of communities to object to individual planning applications. It was only last month in the Queen's Speech debate that we warned the Government that they would reap a political whirlwind if they went ahead with their plans to silence communities and hand control over planning to developers. They felt the first blasts of that whirlwind in Chesham and Amersham, but it will not finish there because it is fair to say that the Conservatives' planning reforms are not popular with voters. That is not because</p>

			voters are nimbys, as Ministers rather offensively like to brand them, but because residents rightly want and deserve a say over how their own neighbourhoods are developed. More here

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

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
07/06/21	Ministerial statement	DfT	The Department for Transport has published a written ministerial statement on Local Transport Update made by Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport; More here
07/06/21	Press release	TfN	First ever North of England Decarbonisation Strategy opens for consultation. A Decarbonisation Strategy for the North of England – setting out the ambitious target of near-zero carbon emissions from surface transport by 2045 – is going out to public consultation today. Here