



August 2021

Dear Constituent,

Thank you for contacting me about the UK's 2050 net zero emissions target.

While I appreciate your concerns, the assessment of the independent Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has concluded that this target is feasible, deliverable and can be met within the same cost as was estimated for our previous target of 80% which was set back in 2008, such has been the power of innovation in reducing costs.

That is not to mention that the actual impact could be partially or completely off-set by wider benefits such as better health through reduced air pollution, improved efficiencies across the economy and the creation of green collar jobs and clean growth.

It is right that we should look carefully at how these costs are distributed in the longer-term. The Treasury published an interim report in December 2020 on achieving net zero which found the combined effect of UK and global climate action on UK economic growth is likely to be relatively small. The scale, distribution and balance of new growth opportunities and challenges will depend on how the economy and policy respond to the changes required. It also stated that new industries and jobs will emerge as existing sectors decarbonise or give way to low- carbon equivalents.

Ultimately, in fulfilling the scale of the commitment, we will need technological and logistical changes in the way we use our land and to seize the opportunity to support investment in a range of new or advanced technologies, including in areas such as carbon capture, usage and storage, hydrogen and nuclear. The Treasury Report noted that well-designed policy can reduce costs and risk for investors, support innovation and the deployment of new technologies. The Government will publish its Net Zero Strategy in the coming months, which will lay out plans to cut emissions and create new jobs and industries across the whole country.

As we recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, we have an opportunity to build a greener, more resilient economy and I welcome the Prime Minister's £12 billion Ten Point Plan which lays the blueprint for a green industrial revolution, while supporting and creating 250,000 green jobs. The Government also adopted the CCC's recommended Sixth Carbon Budget in full, which will see the UK reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by almost 78% by 2035, compared to 1990 levels. This comes in addition to the further interim target of reducing greenhouse emissions by 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.



**Chris Heaton-Harris**

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The UK can rapidly cut carbon emissions, while creating new jobs, new technologies and future-proof industries that will generate economic growth for decades to come. As a Minister of State in the Department for Transport with responsibility for rail, cycling and walking I know we can do this and am playing a part in decarbonising our transport sector, which is massively important in the overall picture.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris'.

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**