



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

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The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
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Dear Ms Samarasinghe,

I am writing in response to the UNA-UK campaign 'Put the UK at the forefront of action to combat climate change'. I hope you will share my response with your supporters on the UNA-UK website.

The 21st Conference of Parties (CoP) in Paris delivered an historic and unprecedented agreement that takes a significant step forward towards reducing, on a global scale, the emissions that cause climate change. For the first time, nearly 200 countries have made a commitment to take action and to make more progress in the future.

The agreement marks a clear turning point towards a sustainable and low carbon future that brings opportunities for businesses across the UK, as well as benefits to people in health and security from averting the worst impacts of climate change. It has been welcomed by many businesses and NGOs as a decisive signal to business and investors that will accelerate the shift to a low carbon economy and unlock investment into clean technology.

The agreement sets out a clear long-term goal of near net zero emissions by end of the century, showing that the world is committed to decarbonisation. This sends a strong signal to businesses that the shift to a clean economy is global, irreversible and transformational, and provides confidence that will help drive the scale of investment needed. This will clear the path for the private sector to drive a long-term solution, whilst helping the most vulnerable to adapt to unavoidable climate change.

It also drives us forward on our path to limiting global temperature rises to below 2 degrees, with a further collective aspiration of 1.5 degrees. But Governments cannot act alone. All parts of society, including businesses and investors, have a role to play. Paris has already resulted in transformational action that will have a real impact on the ground in countries, cities and communities around the world.

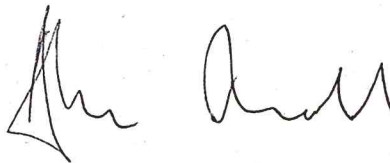
The agreement also recognises the role of both developed and emerging economies in helping the poorest and most vulnerable to curb emissions whilst developing, and protect themselves from the worst effects of climate change. Over the last five years through the UK's £3.87bn International Climate Fund (ICF) we have supported millions of the world's poorest to better withstand weather extremes and rising temperatures.

At the UN General Assembly in September, the Prime Minister announced a significant uplift in the UK's climate finance of at least 50% with a £5.8 billion over the next 5 years. Other developed countries, such as Germany, France, the US, Japan and Canada have all recently announced increases in funding to help mobilise \$100bn in climate finance per year from both the public and private sector.

Our priority at home is to reduce emissions in the most cost-effective way and keep bills as low as possible for hardworking families and businesses. Government support has already driven down the cost of renewable energy significantly, helping technologies to stand on their own two feet. We are leading the world on taking coal off the grid, launching a consultation in the spring on closing all unabated coal-fired power stations by 2025, provided we are confident the shift to new gas can be achieved within the necessary timescales. We are more than doubling funding for DECC's energy innovation programme to over £500m which will reduce costs of decarbonising over the longer-term and enable growth; and we are also extending the Renewable Heat Incentive, with funding rising to £1.15bn in 20/21.

Paris marks a historic turning point, but it is not the end. In 2016 and beyond, we must get countries to implement their commitments and create a level playing field to enable markets to thrive.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amber Rudd', written in a cursive style.

AMBER RUDD