

## ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring January 2020

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

### Key dates

13 - 24 February: Recess

11 March: Budget

31 March – 21 April: Easter recess

6 – 11 May: May Day recess

21 May – 2 June: Whitsun recess

1 July: Deadline contained in Withdrawal Agreement for transition extension request

21 July – 8 September: Summer recess

17 September – 12 October: Party conferences

31 December: Extension period ends

### Planning – Housing

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
08/01/20	Written Ministerial Statement	MHCLG	<b>MHCLG: Departmental Update</b> The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has published a written ministerial statement on departmental update: <a href="http://bit.ly/2Qx6LLi">http://bit.ly/2Qx6LLi</a>
29/01/20	Press release	Rural services network	<b>National Guidance changed on thresholds for rural affordable housing</b> In a very welcome revision to the National Planning Practice Guidance, Local Planning Authorities are again able to set their own thresholds for affordable housing in designated rural areas. The report can be accessed via the press release: <a href="#">Full press release here.</a>

### Industrial Strategy & Local Industrial Strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
10/01/20	Oral Q&A	HoL	<b>Fracking - Hansard</b> <b>Answered on: Thursday 9 January 2020</b> <b>Baroness Jones Of Moulsecomb:</b> To ask Her Majesty's Government when the moratorium on fracking will become a ban. <b>Lord Duncan Of Springbank (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of</b>

			<p><b>State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Northern Ireland Office):</b> My Lords, the Government have no plans to turn the moratorium on shale gas extraction into a ban. The Government have always been clear that we will be led by science, will continue to take a precautionary approach and will support shale gas exploration only if it can be done in a safe and sustainable way. The moratorium is intended to give a clear message to the sector and to local communities that fracking, within the current corpus of scientific evidence, will not be taken forward in England. <a href="#">Read more here...</a></p>
22/01/20	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p><b>Manufacturing Industries: North East:</b> Written question - <a href="#">HL376</a></p> <p>Asked by <a href="#">Baroness Armstrong of Hill Top</a></p> <p>To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to support manufacturing in the North East of England.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Lord Duncan of Springbank</a></p> <p>The Government recognises the importance of manufacturing to the North East and to the economy. Through the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Deal, we are supporting job growth and economic development with £379.6 million of funding from the Local Growth Fund. This includes £42 million of funding for the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) in Sunderland. Sunderland Council estimates that the IAMP will attract £300 million of private sector investment to help grow local manufacturing sectors.</p> <p>We are also giving over £600 million to support the High Value Manufacturing Catapult network; their Centre for Process Innovation at Wilton focuses on the commercialisation of</p>

			innovation, research and development, helping North East manufacturers to develop and adopt cutting edge technology.
22/01/20	Debate	HoC	<p><b>Growth Strategy Session 2020-2021</b>  <i>Tuesday 21 January 2020 9:30 (Morning)</i>  <b>(a) <a href="#">Redwood, John (Wokingham)</a> (Con)</b> I beg to move,  That this House has considered the growth strategy for the UK.  It is a pleasure to serve under your chairmanship, Mr Hollobone . A most welcome change has occurred in economic policy since the advent of the new Prime Minister . We are now told that the aim of economic policy is to promote the greater prosperity of the many in the United Kingdom by means of promoting faster economic growth . The Prime Minister often adds "opportunity" to his justified enthusiasm for growth and greater prosperity. <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
27/01/20	Early day Motion	HoC	<p><b>Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer appointed UK decarbonisation champion</b>  <a href="#">Early Day Motions 107</a>  Session: 2019-20  Date tabled: Monday 27 January 2020  Primary Sponsor:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Cherry, Joanna</a></li> </ul> That this House congratulates Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer, Associate Principal (Global Sustainability) at Heriot-Watt University, on her appointment as the UK's Decarbonisation Champion by UK Research and Innovation ; notes that Mercedes Maroto-Valer will work with industry and leading experts to develop a proposal to decarbonise the UK economy by 2050; understands that she will also work in partnership with academia, industry, policymakers and other stakeholders to develop a new, state-of-the-art Industrial Decarbonisation Research and Innovation Centre (the Centre) based at Edinburgh 's Heriot Watt-</p>

			<p>University; further notes that the Centre will allow researchers and industry to work together to develop new research and ideas that address complex social and environmental challenges essential to tackling climate change ; welcomes the announcement of £170 million in funding through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to help support the project until 2024; highlights the Centre's ambition to transform the UK's largest industrial areas reliant on carbon fuel into world-leading low-carbon manufacturing hubs whilst safeguarding jobs and communities and wishes Mercedes Maroto-Valer and her team every success in their endeavours.</p>
28/01/20	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p><b>Renewable Energy: Manufacturing Industries:</b> Written question - <a href="#">7239</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Ben Lake</a> (Ceredigion)</p> <p>To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what her Department's policy is on encouraging the development of a domestic manufacturing base for renewable energy technologies.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Kwasi Kwarteng</a></p> <p>In the Clean Growth Strategy and Industrial Strategy, the Government set out its ambition to have a strong, industrialised UK supply chain, proving its capability and increasing its capacity in order to win export orders. Delivering economic benefit is a Government priority and we are working together with industry to deliver growth, build a thriving UK supply chain and seize commercial opportunities in the UK and abroad. Through the measures set out in the Offshore Wind Sector Deal, the offshore wind sector will invest up to £250 million over 10 years into a new Offshore Wind Growth Partnership aimed at helping UK companies</p>

			<p>become more competitive and productive in the context of a growing global market.</p> <p>The UK has a strong track record in the supply of offshore wind development services, engineering design, and the supply of inter array cables and offshore substations. Approximately 75% of the value of operations and maintenance contracts for UK offshore wind farms are won by UK businesses.</p>
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### NPPF – Land value capture

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
16/01/20	Speeches	MHCLG	<p><b>Speech: Local authority town planning: planning for prosperous communities, 16th October 2019.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read here.</a></p>

### Energy – Local authority projects

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
15/01/20	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p><b>Renewable Energy:</b> Written question - <a href="#">1422</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Catherine West</a> (Hornsey and Wood Green) To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what additional steps her Department has taken to increase the supply of renewable energy production.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Kwasi Kwarteng</a> Answered on: 14 January 2020 Holding answer received on 13 January 2020</p> <p>This Government is committed to meeting net zero by 2050, and in 2019, the Government became the first major economy in the world to have legislated for a net zero target to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050. We agree with the Committee on Climate Change's view on the importance of a diverse mix of power generation sources to achieve that</p>

			<p>with renewables providing the majority of our electricity by 2050 alongside firm low carbon power from sources such as nuclear, and gas or biomass generation with carbon capture and storage.</p> <p>The Government has introduced many initiatives to increase the supply of renewable energy production in the UK and with this support, carbon emissions have reduced by 42%, while the economy has grown by 73% since 1990. We have also seen rapid deployment of solar PV over the last 8 years, with over 99% of the UK's solar PV capacity deployed since May 2010 and half of the world's offshore wind deploying in the UK. We have committed up to £557m of annual support for future Contracts for Difference, providing developers with the confidence they need to invest in bringing forward new projects and we are supporting our world-leading offshore wind industry through the 2019 sector deal.</p> <p>In order to support smaller scale renewable electricity generation, the Government introduced the Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) on 1 January, which gives small scale low-carbon electricity generators, such as homes with solar panels, the right to be paid for the renewable electricity they export to the grid. Unlike the previous Feed-in Tariff scheme, the SEG is a market-driven mechanism. It paves the way to projects being deployed without subsidies.</p> <p>The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) supports the transition to low-carbon heating in the UK, helping generate renewable heat for schools, hospitals and more than 12,000 social housing properties. The scheme is designed to bridge the gap between the cost of fossil fuel heat sources and renewable heat alternatives through financial support for owners of participating installations. The RHI helps to sustain and build the supply-chains needed</p>
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			<p>to deliver our aspirations for renewable heat in 2020 and beyond We are working to develop a new policy framework for the long-term decarbonisation of heat. We have committed to publishing a policy roadmap in summer 2020. This will set out the programme of work required to enable key strategic decisions in the first half of 2020 on how we achieve mass transition to low carbon heating.</p>
23/01/20	Written Q&A	BEIS	<p><b>Solar Power: Written question - <a href="#">4374</a></b></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Steve Double</a></p> <p>To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to encourage greater uptake of rooftop solar PV.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Kwasi Kwarteng</a></p> <p>Low carbon electricity, including solar – whether at the household level or the national level – is central to the transition to the smart and flexible energy systems of the future. Since 2010, we have quadrupled the electricity we generate from renewables – installing 99% of the UK's solar capacity and over 800,000 installations – exceeding our historic projections on solar PV deployment. We now have over 13.3GW of solar capacity installed in the UK, which is enough to power over 3 million UK homes.</p> <p>The Smart Export Guarantee (SEG), which came into force on 1 January 2020, gives small scale low-carbon electricity generators, such as homes with solar panels, the right to be paid for the renewable electricity they export to the grid. Renewable generators now have a several competitive SEG tariffs to choose from, in some cases even higher than the FIT export tariff. Permitted development rights have been introduced allowing the</p>

			installation of solar panels up to 1 megawatt on domestic properties, schools, businesses and farm buildings without any need for planning permission.
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### Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
23/01/20	Debate	HoC	<b>Telecommunications Infrastructure (Leasehold Property) Bill Session 2020-2021</b> Wednesday 22 January 2020 15:30 (Afternoon) Second Reading <b>(a) <a href="#">Warman, Matt</a> (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport)</b> I beg to move, That the Bill be now read a Second time. <a href="#">Read here.</a>

### Economy – Fair funding review

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
07/01/20	Speech	MHCLG	<b>MHCLG: Speech by Local Government Minister <a href="#">Luke Hall MP</a> at the Local Government Association's annual local government finance conference 2020</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a>
15/01/20	Debate	HoC	<b>Education and Local Government Session 2020-2021</b> <b>(a) <a href="#">Williamson, Gavin</a> (The Secretary of State for Education)</b> May I say how delighted I am to see so many new faces among us? They could not have arrived at a more exciting time. This Government have a historic mandate to push through an ambitious and challenging agenda, to make changes that will transform the lives and prospects of a generation. We are poised to shape a new Britain. We are primed for a new era. This Government are ready to ensure that Britain can seize the opportunities that lie ahead of us after we leave the European Union—a Britain where the young people of today are prepared for the world of tomorrow... <a href="#">read here.</a>



## Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
15/01/20	Press Release	BEIS	<p><b>Government announces measures on regional connectivity</b></p> <p>The Government has today announced additional measures to support and enhance regional connectivity across the UK, to ensure all corners of the country drive the economy, and fully benefit from prosperity in years to come. <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
24/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>Climate Change:</b> Written question - <a href="#">4446</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Darren Jones</a></p> <p>To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of climate change on the work of his Department; and what steps he is taking in response to that effect.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">George Freeman</a></p> <p>The Department for Transport (DfT) works closely with its operators on risk assessment and mitigation measures for transport infrastructure. DfT contributed to the Government's National Adaption Programme 2018 and Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017. These two documents set out Government's adaptation measures and predicated climate change impacts nationally. DfT is continuing to work with transport operators and delivery partners to increase climate resilience in the planning and design of transport infrastructure and will keep incorporating adaptation into its strategies.</p> <p>Government is committed to delivering a net zero emission transport system, which will deliver wider benefits for the UK and its citizens, as soon as possible. These benefits include improved air quality and public health, new opportunities for economic growth and high-quality</p>

			jobs in clean growth, as well as a sustainable and more efficient transport system. The forthcoming Transport Decarbonisation Plan will set out our bold and ambitious policies for transport to ensure the transport sector plays its part in ending the UK's contribution to climate change by 2050.
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### Transport – Major road network

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
16/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>Roads: Finance:</b> Written question - <a href="#">2488</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Grahame Morris</a> To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will bring forward proposals to increase the levels of funding allocated to roads in the English regions to similar levels to those allocated to roads in London.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">George Freeman</a> The responsibility for local highways maintenance in London is a devolved matter and therefore falls to Transport for London (TfL) and the London boroughs. The Government is providing local highways authorities in England (outside of London) over £6.6 billion between 2015 and 2020 for local highways maintenance. Every local highway authority in England (outside London) receives maintenance funding based on a formula that considers local factors such as road length, bridges, and street lighting. Highways authorities are able to prioritise their spending as they wish in order to meet local needs.</p>

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

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates.

## Transport – Automated electric vehicle bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

## Transport – rail

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
06/01/20	Press Release	DfT	<p><b>2020 vision for north-east rail network</b> Government to invigorate rail connections across the north-east of England with more modern and reliable services for passengers. <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
07/01/20	Press release	Network Rail	<p><b>South Wales rail passengers benefit from first electric services between Cardiff and London.</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
10/01/20	Press release	Innovate UK	<p><b>Trialling new rail technologies: apply for contracts</b> Organisations can apply for a share of up to £9.4 million to show how new technologies could improve rail services for passengers and operators. <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
13/01/20	Press Release	DfT/Innovate UK	<p><b>First of a Kind 2020 launches to find this century's Brunel</b> Department for Transport and Innovate UK launch competition to drive innovation on the railways. <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
13/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>Midland Main Railway Line: Electrification:</b> Written question - <a href="#">190</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Alex Norris</a> (Nottingham North) To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when the work to electrify the Midland Mainline will commence.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Chris Heaton-Harris</a> Electrification works between Bedford and Kettering, as part of the Midland Main Line enhancement programme, are underway. Electric services on this route are planned to commence from December 2020. The Midland Main Line enhancements programme will support better journeys from 2020, including faster journeys in the peak and more seats, with further</p>

			improvements from 2022 with a fleet of brand new bi-mode trains.
13/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>Railways: Compensation:</b> Written question - <a href="#">1044</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Peter Kyle</a>(Hove)          Asked on: 07 January 2020          To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to introduce automatic compensation for rail passengers in respect of (a) delays and (b) poor service.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Chris Heaton-Harris</a>          The Department is working with the rail industry to introduce more automated Delay Repay compensation schemes across all DfT franchises to make claiming for delays easier, by notifying passengers where possible that they are eligible for compensation. Five DfT franchises now offer automated Delay Repay schemes, including smartcard holders on Govia Thameslink. This forms part of government's commitment to significantly improve compensation for passengers when things go wrong, as announced by the previous Secretary of State in October 2018.          In their Passenger's Charters, most TOCs offer more than the minimum standard for passenger compensation as set out in the National Rail Conditions of Travel (NRCOT). TOCs can, at their discretion, go beyond the commitments in their Passenger's Charter on a case by case basis to compensate for poor service.</p>
13/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>South Western Railway:</b> Written question - <a href="#">1402</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Bob Seely</a> (Isle of Wight)          Asked on: 08 January 2020          To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what his policy is on the future of South Western Railway; and what plans he has for the future funding of the Island Line railway.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Chris Heaton-Harris</a>          Answered on: 13 January 2020</p>

			<p>As part of responsible contingency planning, we have measures in place on every franchise to protect the interests of passengers and taxpayers, and to ensure that services keep running and the taxpayer is reimbursed if a franchise is unable to deliver the services required. The Island Line will continue to operate under the South Western Railway franchise. On 16 September 2019 I announced significant investment on the Island Line confirming our determination to provide passengers across the country with the modern rail network they expect.</p>
14/01/20	Statistics	ORR	<p><b>Estimates of station usage: 2018 to 2019</b>  Statistics on the estimates of the total numbers of people entering, exiting and changing at stations with the latest data, covering April 2018 to March 2019. <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
14/01/20	Consultation	ORR	<p><b>ORR: Review of the rolling stock leasing market competition remedies</b>  The Office of Rail and Road has published the consultation on Review of the rolling stock leasing market competition remedies  Opens: 9 January 2020  Closes: 6 February 2020  ORR: <a href="http://bit.ly/2NnYc3e">http://bit.ly/2NnYc3e</a></p>
16/01/20	Written Q&A	HoL	<p><b>Railways: Capital Investment:</b> Written question - <a href="#">HL122</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Lord Greaves</a>  To ask Her Majesty's Government how the fund for re-opening railway lines closed by the Beeching Cuts will be administered; how decisions will be made on which lines it will be used for; how that fund is intended to interact with the Rail Network Enhancement Pipeline system and Governance of Railway Investment Projects; and what over what period of time the funds will be (1) allocated and (2) spent.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Baroness Vere of Norbiton</a>  To help communities across the country, we have pledged £500m to start reopening lines closed following the Beeching report, reconnecting smaller</p>

			<p>towns, regenerating local economies and improving accessibility to jobs, homes and education.</p> <p>Further details will be announced in due course.</p>
20/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>Railway Stations: Access:</b> Written question - <a href="#">3858</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">James Carlidge</a> To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, whether he plans to announce additional access for all funding for railway station accessibility; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Ms Nusrat Ghani</a> We have announced the funding currently available for the 2019-2024 rail Control Period. In addition to the 73 Access for All stations announced last year, we will shortly be announcing additional projects selected to benefit from £20m of Mid-Tier funding. Future funding decisions will be made at a later time. However, I would like to assure you that I am committed to improving access at all stations, and will continue to seek further opportunities, and funding, to make more improvements.</p>
22/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>Railways: Pennines:</b> Written question - <a href="#">3193</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Jonathan Reynolds</a> To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what his policy is on (a) the electrification of, (b) the introduction of new rolling stock to and (c) other improvements to TransPennine services on the Huddersfield rail line.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Chris Heaton-Harris</a> The TransPennine Route Upgrade programme is expected to be the Government's biggest single investment in our country's existing railway in the next five years. We expect to make a decision later this year to progress the programme to the next phase of design and construction, during which we will confirm our approach to electrification and other improvement activity.</p>

			<p>As part of its £500m investment in trains, TransPennine Express (TPE) is currently introducing three state-of-the-art fleets made up of 44 new trains into passenger service, which will provide 13 million extra seats a year once they are all in service in 2020. Passengers along the Huddersfield line will benefit from these high-quality trains and their extra capacity - equivalent to a rise of more than 80 per cent on a seven day a week timetable across the TPE network. The above demonstrates that this Government is committed to levelling up all parts of this country.</p>
27/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>Railways: Capital Investment:</b> Written question - <a href="#">6663</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Lilian Greenwood</a> (Nottingham South) To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what progress he has made on developing market-led proposals for rail infrastructure investment.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Chris Heaton-Harris</a> We continue to welcome market led proposals and the Market Led Guidance remains live at <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rail-market-led-proposals">www.gov.uk/government/publications/rail-market-led-proposals</a>. Where proposals have been received we have engaged with backers and where appropriate supported their engagement with Network Rail and the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline process.</p>
28/01/20	Press Release	DfT	<p><b>Government pledges £500 million to bring back historic rail lines, improving connectivity for communities across the country.</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
28/01/20	Speech	DfT	<p><b>North-east rail revolution begins with Beeching reversal and fund for new trains across Tyne and Wear.</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
29/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>Railways: Carbon Emissions:</b> Written question - <a href="#">7619</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Lilian Greenwood</a> (Nottingham South)</p>

			<p>To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what the planned publication date is for Network Rail's Traction Decarbonisation Network Strategy.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">George Freeman</a>  Network Rail's Traction Decarbonisation Network Strategy (TDNS) will be complete later this year. TDNS will inform our Transport Decarbonisation Plan, to be published this year, which will set out a credible and ambitious plan for the UK to ensure transport delivers its contribution to net zero greenhouse gas emissions.  No date has been agreed for publication of TDNS.</p>
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## Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
13/01/20	Written Q&A	MHCLG	<p><b>Devolution: Yorkshire and the Humber:</b>  Written question - <a href="#">900119</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Emma Hardy</a>  (Kingston upon Hull West and Hessle)  Asked on: 13 January 2020  What his Department's policy is on the One Yorkshire devolution proposals.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Jake Berry</a>  This government's ambition is for full devolution across England and we are committed to publish an English Devolution White Paper which will set out our plans.</p>
23/01/20	Written Q&A	DfT	<p><b>South Western Rail Franchise:</b> Written question - <a href="#">5557</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Munira Wilson</a>  To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent (a) discussions and (b) meetings (a) ministers and (b) officials in his Department has had with representatives of (i) First Group and (ii) MTR Crossrail on the (A) financial viability and (B) performance of the South Western Railways rail franchise; and if he will publish the names of the attendees of those members.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Chris Heaton-Harris</a></p>



			<p>South Western Railway is owned by First Group and MTR Europe.</p> <p>The Department holds regular meetings with all franchise owning groups. These cover a wide range of topics, including financial and performance matters. These meetings involve officials at all levels from within the Department.</p>
28/01/20	Written Q&A	MHCLG	<p><b>Local Government: Devolution:</b> Written question - <a href="#">HL531</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Lord Porter of Spalding</a> To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they intend to work with local government to develop and implement their proposals for English devolution; and if so, how.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Viscount Younger of Leckie</a> The Government's ambition is for full devolution across England including through more devolution deals that level up powers and invest further in infrastructure. That is why it has been working with local authority leaders to unlock the Sheffield City Region and continues discussions with West Yorkshire leaders on a new devolution deal. The Government also engages with a wide range of local government partners on the future of devolution in England and looks forward to continuing this as it develops the English Devolution White Paper.</p>
29/01/20	Press release	MHCLG	<p><b>Devolution talks underway in Leeds</b> Treasury Minister Simon Clarke will convene a meeting with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority to discuss a deal that would see the region to take control of extra powers and funding from Westminster, giving them more responsibility over local services. He will be joined by Northern Powerhouse Minister Jake Berry and the leaders of Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Wakefield Councils....<a href="#">read here</a>.</p>

### Environment – 25 year environment plan

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
22/01/20	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<b>Office for Environmental Protection:</b> Written question - <a href="#">3294</a>

			<p>Asked by: <a href="#">Olivia Blake</a> (Sheffield, Hallam) To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the timeframe is for establishing the new independent Office for Environmental Protection; and what consultation process will be used to define strict new laws on air quality.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Rebecca Pow</a>  The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) is to be operational from 1 January 2021. Subject to the passage of the Environment Bill, the OEP will therefore take on its full statutory functions from this date, including being able to receive and investigate complaints, take enforcement action, and provide scrutiny and advice including in relation to the 25 Year Environment Plan.</p> <p>Our Clean Air Strategy (CAS) was published in 2019 following a thorough consultation exercise and included new and ambitious goals, legislation, investment and policies to clean up our air faster and more effectively. The Environment Bill delivers key parts of this CAS including outlining how new air quality targets will be set through an open and transparent, evidence-based process, which will include seeking independent expert advice and holding a public consultation. The targets and associated technical detail will be set in a statutory instrument via the affirmative procedure, and both Houses of Parliament will have the opportunity to scrutinise and debate the details and ambition of the targets before they are finalised.</p>
21/01/20	Press release	DEFRA	<b>Natural capital tool launched to help protect the environment.</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a>
30/01/20	Press Release	DEFRA	<b>30 January 2020: Environment Bill 2020 policy statement.</b> <a href="#">Read here.</a>
30/01/20	Ministerial Statement	DEFRA	<b>DEFRA: The Environment Bill</b> The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has published a written ministerial statement on The Environment Bill: <a href="http://bit.ly/38Qg3lv">http://bit.ly/38Qg3lv</a>

			<p>Made by: <a href="#">Theresa Villiers</a> (The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)</p> <p>I am pleased to announce that today we will be introducing the government's flagship Environment Bill. There is a clear and urgent scientific case, and growing public demand for acting decisively to address biodiversity loss and climate change, which this Bill responds to...<a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
30/01/20	Press Release	DEFRA	<p><b>Environment Bill sets out vision for a greener future</b></p> <p>Landmark Bill will better protect our natural environment for generations to come. <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>

## Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
07/01/20	Papers	HoC Library	<p><b>Plastic waste:</b> A House of Commons Library Briefing Paper on plastic waste in the UK, including statistics on plastic waste and information on UK Government and devolved Government plans and ambitions to reduce avoidable plastic waste and examples of voluntary initiatives from the plastics industry, environmental groups and retailers. <a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
07/01/20	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<p>Business: Recycling: Written question - <a href="#">297</a></p> <p>Asked by <a href="#">Jim Shannon</a> (Strangford)</p> <p>Asked on: 20 December 2019</p> <p>To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether she is taking steps with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy &amp; Industrial Strategy to offer incentives to businesses to encourage greater uptake of workplace recycling.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Rebecca Pow</a></p> <p>In 2019, the Government consulted on measures to require businesses, public bodies and other organisations to segregate recyclable waste streams including plastic, metal, paper, glass and food waste so that these could be collected and recycled. The Government</p>

			<p>also consulted on measures to reduce the costs of putting in place recycling collections especially for smaller firms. The response to this consultation was published in July 2019 and showed strong support for businesses to recycle. The forthcoming Environment Bill is expected to introduce duties for businesses to separate waste to be recycled in England. The Government will work with businesses to implement these changes and to increase recycling including investigating measures to reduce costs.</p> <p>In addition, the Government has launched a £1 million fund to promote recycling of non-household municipal waste (or business waste) in England. This fund will provide capital infrastructure to support collection and recycling of non-household municipal waste (or business waste) in England. The aim is to encourage organisations that collect or facilitate collection of this waste to provide new or improved recycling services. There is an additional aim of providing new infrastructure and better access to services targeting / benefitting small to medium enterprises. The grant scheme is managed by the Waste and Resources Action Programme. The scheme has now closed and applications for funding are being considered.</p>
13/01/20	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<p><b>Plastics: Waste Disposal:</b> <a href="#">Written question - 1349</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Grahame Morris</a>        Asked on: 08 January 2020        To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to reduce the amount of recyclable plastics going to landfill.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Rebecca Pow</a>        The Government is committed to increasing recycling rates. The Queen's Speech committed the Government to bring forward our ambitious Environment Bill which introduces legislation so that a core set of materials, including plastics, will be collected from households and businesses from 2023. We will also</p>

			<p>introduce measures, through an extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme, to encourage producers to use plastic packaging that can be recycled. The Government also consulted on proposals to introduce a world-leading new tax on the production and import of plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content and the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). Together these measures will increase the quality and quantity of plastics collected for recycling. The Government also continues to incentivise the diversion of waste away from landfill, through the Landfill Tax. For example, the standard rate of Landfill Tax, which applies to household waste, has increased from £11 to £88.95 per tonne between 2000 and 2018; the proportion of local authority collected waste sent to landfill decreased from 79.0% to 10.8% over a similar period (2000/01 to 2018/19). We will soon consult on proposals to implement changes made to the Landfill Directive as part of the Circular Economy Package, which will restrict waste that has been separately collected for recycling, such as plastic waste, being accepted at landfill sites.</p>
13/01/20	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<p><b>Plastics:</b> Written question - <a href="#">1348</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Grahame Morris</a> (Easington)        Asked on: 08 January 2020        To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to (a) reduce plastic pollution and (b) increase plastic recycling.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Rebecca Pow</a>        The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) for England, published in December 2018, sets out our plans to reduce, reuse, and recycle more plastic than we do now. Our target is to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste throughout the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan, but for the most problematic plastics we are going faster - that is why we are working towards all plastic packaging</p>

			<p>placed on the market being recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025. We have already made good progress. The Government's 5p plastic bag charge has led to a 90% reduction in the use of plastic carrier bags in the main retailers, and last year we consulted on plans to extend the charge to all retailers and on increasing the minimum charge to at least 10p. A summary of responses will be published in due course. We have also introduced a world-leading ban on the sale of microbeads in rinse-off personal care products.</p> <p>The Government is committed to increasing recycling rates. The Environment Bill, which was cited in the Queen's Speech, introduces legislation so that a core set of materials, including plastics, will be collected from households and businesses from 2023. We will also introduce measures, through an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme, to encourage producers to use plastic packaging that can be recycled. The Government also consulted on proposals to introduce a world-leading new tax on the production and import of plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled content and the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme. Together these measures will increase the quality and quantity of plastics collected for recycling.</p>
22/01/20	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<p><b>Plastics:</b> Written question - <a href="#">HL227</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">The Lord Bishop of Salisbury</a> To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress they have made towards reducing the production of unnecessary plastic and encouraging the development of alternatives to plastic.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park</a> The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) for England, published in December 2018, sets out our plans to reduce, reuse, and recycle more plastic than we do now. Our target is to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste throughout the</p>

			lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan, but for the most problematic plastics we are going faster - that is why we are working towards all plastic packaging placed on the market being recyclable, reusable, or compostable by 2025.... <a href="#">Read full answer here.</a>
29/01/20	Debate	HoC	<p><b>Industrial and Commercial Waste Incineration. 4.30 pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">Stephen Doughty</a> (Cardiff South and Penarth) (Lab/Co-op)</p> <p>I beg to move, That this House has considered the incineration of industrial and commercial waste.</p> <p>It is a pleasure to serve under your chairmanship, Mr Hosie, and to see many Members from different parties, and indeed from across the UK, at this important debate. I know that the issue that we are debating is of great concern to Members across the House, and I hope we will hear some of their points during the course of the next hour....</p> <p><a href="#">Read here.</a></p>

## Environment – Air Quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
07/01/20	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<p>Air Pollution: Written question - <a href="#">90</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Dr Matthew Offord</a> (Hendon) Asked on: 19 December 2019 To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if she will bring forward legislative proposals on clean air.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Rebecca Pow</a> The upcoming Environment Bill will contain provisions to tackle poor air quality, which is the greatest environmental risk to health. The Air Quality chapter in the Environment Bill will ensure that local authorities have a clear framework for tackling air pollution, and simple to use powers to address air quality in their areas. It will also provide Government with new powers to enforce</p>

			<p>environmental standards for vehicles, and will commit to setting an ambitious, long-term air quality target.</p> <p>The Environment Bill fell at the dissolution of the last Parliament, but the Conservative Party manifesto committed to reintroducing the Bill and we are expecting to see its reintroduction to Parliament shortly. Exact timings of the Bill's introduction will be confirmed soon.</p>
10/01/20	Press Release	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health	<p><b>Time for urgent action on air quality, says RCPCH.</b> The College warns that air pollution is the single greatest environmental threat to public health in the UK, and that it disproportionately affects children, young people, and more deprived communities. Our calls include the expansion of clean air zones in towns and cities, bringing forward our commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and investment in both 'active travel' and public transport infrastructure.</p> <p><a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
13/01/20	Press Release	British Heart Foundation	<p><b>Heart attack and stroke deaths related to air pollution could exceed 160,000 by 2030.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
13/01/20	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<p><b>Air Pollution: Urban Areas:</b> Written question - <a href="#">1423</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Catherine West</a> (Hornsey and Wood Green)          Asked on: 08 January 2020          To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what additional steps her Department is taking to improve air quality in inner-city areas.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Rebecca Pow</a>          Air quality is a key policy area for this Government and a great deal of work is being done to tackle air pollution. Implementing the commitments set out in the Clean Air Strategy, which was published last year, will help to clean up our air faster and more effectively in towns and cities. The upcoming Environment Bill, which will shortly be reintroduced to Parliament, will deliver some key commitments in the Strategy. This includes introducing a duty to set a legally binding target for fine particulate matter concentrations, the</p>



			<p>pollutant of most harm to health. The Bill will also ensure that local authorities have a clear framework for tackling air pollution, and are better able to tackle a key source of fine particulate matter emissions – domestic solid fuel burning. It will also provide the Government with new powers to enforce environmental standards for vehicles and machinery.</p> <p>The Government's Joint Air Quality Unit is also working with a number of local authorities to deliver compliance with legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in the shortest possible time. The unit provides these local authorities with guidance and support to develop local plans to identify and implement suitable measures to achieve this objective, supported by £572 million dedicated funding. In some instances local authorities will be implementing charging clean air zones to deliver these reductions, and the Government is working closely with these authorities to ensure the necessary IT systems are in place and ready to use.</p> <p>Further, Defra's Air Quality Grant Programme provides funding to local authorities, funding projects in local communities to tackle air pollution and reduce emissions affecting schools, businesses and residents. Defra has awarded over £60 million in funding to local authorities since the grant started in 1997. These measures will improve air quality across the country, including in inner-city areas.</p>
23/01/20	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<p><b>Air Pollution:</b> Written question - <a href="#">5495</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Dr Rosena Allin-Khan</a> To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment she has made of the implications for her policies of the World Health Organisation's air pollution limits on particulate matter; and what plans her Department has to adopt those targets.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Rebecca Pow</a> In July 2019, the Government published a report assessing the progress that will be made towards World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines under a range of scenarios. The report concluded that while</p>

			<p>significant progress would be made, additional action would be required in large urban areas such as London. The analysis did not outline a pathway to achieve the WHO guideline level for fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) across the country, and did not take into account full economic viability and practical deliverability.</p> <p>The Environment Bill, which will be introduced shortly, will establish a legally binding duty to set a target for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, demonstrating our commitment to action on the air pollutant that has the most significant impact on human health. We are committed to setting challenging targets and following an evidence-based process, seeking advice from a range of experts, in addition to giving consideration to the WHO's air quality guidelines. We need to ensure that the target is based on realistic pathways, robust science and full economic analysis to ensure that it is both ambitious and achievable, and focus on how the greatest public health benefits can be achieved.</p>
23/01/20	Written Q&A	DEFRA	<p><b>Air Pollution:</b> Written question - <a href="#">3765</a></p> <p>Asked by: <a href="#">Neil Coyle</a> (Bermondsey and Old Southwark) Asked on: 15 January 2020 To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps she is taking to reduce air pollution levels (a) throughout the UK, (b) in inner city communities and (c) in the London Borough of Southwark.</p> <p>Answered by: <a href="#">Rebecca Pow</a> Air quality is a key policy area for this Government and a great deal of work is being done to tackle air pollution. Implementing the commitments set out in the Clean Air Strategy (CAS), which was published last year, will help to clean up our air faster and more effectively in towns and cities. The upcoming Environment Bill, which will shortly be reintroduced to Parliament, will deliver some key commitments in the CAS. This includes introducing a duty to set a legally binding target for fine particulate</p>

			<p>matter concentrations, the pollutant of most harm to health. The Bill will also ensure that local authorities have a clear framework for tackling air pollution, and are better able to tackle a key source of fine particulate matter emissions – domestic solid fuel burning. It will also provide the Government with new powers to enforce environmental standards for vehicles and machinery. The Government's Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) is also working with a number of local authorities to deliver compliance with legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in the shortest possible time. JAQU provides these local authorities with guidance and support to develop local plans to identify and implement suitable measures to achieve this objective, supported by £572 million dedicated funding. In some instances local authorities will be implementing charging clean air zones to deliver these reductions, and the Government is working closely with these authorities to ensure the necessary IT systems are in place and ready to use. Further, Defra's Air Quality Grant Programme provides funding to local authorities, funding projects in local communities to tackle air pollution and reduce emissions affecting schools, businesses and residents. Defra has awarded over £60 million in funding to local authorities since the grant started in 1997. These measures will improve air quality across the country, including in inner-city areas. For London, air quality is the responsibility of the Mayor of London.</p>
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#### Brexit – BEIS, Defra, HCLG, DExEU & committees

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
22/01/20	Debate	HoC	<p><b>Growth Strategy Session 2020-2021</b>  <b>(a) <a href="#">Redwood, John (Wokingham) (Con)</a>  </b>  beg to move,  That this House has considered the growth strategy for the UK.  It is a pleasure to serve under your chairmanship, Mr Hollobone . A most welcome change has occurred in economic policy since the advent of the new Prime Minister . We are now told that the aim of economic policy is to</p>

			<p>promote the greater prosperity of the many in the United Kingdom by means of promoting faster economic growth . The Prime Minister often adds “opportunity” to his justified enthusiasm for growth and greater prosperity....<a href="#">Read here.</a></p>
31/01/20	Debate	HoC	<p><b>Global Britain</b>  <b>Session 2020-2021</b>  <b>(a) <a href="#">Truss, Elizabeth</a> (The Secretary of State for International Trade)</b> I beg to move,  That this House has considered global Britain.</p> <p>As the clock strikes 11 tomorrow night, we will start building the UK's future as a sovereign trading nation. I should make clear that there are many aspects of global Britain that have nothing to do with trade. The Prime Minister will be leading an integrated defence, security and foreign policy review that will examine all aspects of our place in the world. The Foreign Secretary is spending today with his counterpart from our most important ally, the United States . The Government are committed to exceeding the 2% NATO defence spending target, and to spending 0.7% of GNP on development. Today, however, I will restrict my remarks to one aspect of the story, and that is trade...<a href="#">read here.</a></p>