

ADEPT: Parliamentary monitoring October 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

23 October: Autumn recess

2 November: House returns

25 November: One year Comprehensive Spending Review

20 December: Christmas recess

31 December: Brexit extension period ends

07 January: House returns

Devolution deals

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
05/10/20	Oral answers	MHCLG	<p>English Devolution and Local Recovery: White Paper - Vol 681 907020</p> <p>Dan Jarvis (Lab) (Barnsley Central): When he plans to publish the White Paper on English devolution and local recovery. []</p> <p>Luke Hall (The Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government): The Government intend to bring forward the English devolution and local recovery White Paper in due course, setting out how we will partner with places across the UK to build a sustainable economic recovery. I was very pleased to see that the parliamentary order to implement the Sheffield city region deal in law was made in July, and I congratulate the hon. Gentleman on all his work and support in finally reaching that significant milestone in his work so far as Mayor... More here</p>

Digital – Broadband & mobile

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Economic recovery & renewal

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/10/20	Oral answers	HoC/Cabinet Office	<p>Regional Economic Opportunity - UIN 906876/UIN 906884</p> <p>Paul Bristow (Con) (Peterborough): What progress the Government has made on ensuring regional equality of economic opportunity.</p>

			<p>Mark Logan (Con) (Bolton North East): What steps the Government is taking to promote regional economic growth to support recovery from the covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Julia Lopez (The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office): Thank you, Mr Speaker. This Chamber has changed in many ways since I went on maternity leave, but I am glad to say that the atmosphere has markedly improved for the better thanks to your warmth and good humour. The Government are committed to levelling up opportunity in every corner of the United Kingdom, including as we respond to the economic impacts of covid-19. This work has many strands, from the winter economy plan to protect jobs and businesses to the lifetime skills guarantee and the investment we are making in major regional infrastructure. In the Cabinet Office, we are playing our part through our Places for Growth strategy, locating more high-quality civil service jobs beyond the capital so that the Government are better connected to all the communities we are here to serve... More here</p>
05/10/20	Speech	Conservative conference	Rishi Sunak party conference speech here
05/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Employment: Urban Areas - UIN 95641</p> <p>Ian Lavery (Wansbeck): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, whether he has made an assessment of the potential merits of developing work hubs in towns to (a) support remote working and (b) increase opportunity when people apply for work.</p> <p>Amanda Solloway (Derby North): The Government recognises that access to flexible working practices, including remote working, is key to helping many workers enter and remain in the labour market. There is currently a legal framework in place that grants all employees with 26 weeks' continuous service with their employer the statutory right to request flexible working, which includes working remotely.</p> <p>As part of the Government's Towns Fund programme, the 101 towns selected for "Town Deals" are each developing their own proposals for investment of up to £25m, or £50m in exceptional circumstances. Regeneration and skills are</p>

			key themes of the Towns Fund and it is possible that some towns may wish to propose work hubs or similar shared spaces as part of their plans. In our manifesto we committed to further encouraging flexible working and consulting on making it the default unless employers have good reasons not to. Here
05/10/20	Oral answers	MHCLG	<p>High Street Businesses: Covid-19 - Vol 681 907019</p> <p>Chris Green (Con) (Bolton West): What steps he is taking with Cabinet colleagues to support high street businesses during the covid-19 outbreak. []</p> <p>Robert Jenrick (The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government): Revitalising our towns and high streets is vital to the Government's effort to respond to the coronavirus pandemic, supporting people's jobs and getting businesses trading again. Last month, we provided an £80 million boost to over 100...More here</p>
06/10/20	Press release	LEP Network	<p>LEPs Pitch £30bn Recovery and Rebuild Deal to Government. here</p>
07/10/20	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Non-domestic Rates: Coronavirus - UIN 97639</p> <p>Tom Tugendhat (Tonbridge and Malling): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether he plans to extend the Expanded Retail Discount scheme into the 2021-22 financial year</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch (Saffron Walden): As part of the Government's package to support businesses affected by coronavirus, the Government has provided a business rates holiday for eligible properties in retail, hospitality and leisure, worth £10 billion year. As set out in the Call for Evidence for the fundamental review of business rates, the Government anticipates setting out preliminary conclusions from the review on the most pressing areas, including reliefs, in the Autumn, ahead of final conclusions in Spring 2021. Here</p>
09/10/20	Press release	DfIT	<p>Regional investment projects announced to boost local economies here</p>
09/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Sustainable Development: Coronavirus - UIN 98246</p> <p>Rachael Maskell (York Central): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he has taken to ensure an environmentally sustainable</p>

			<p>economic recovery from the covid-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): We will rebuild our economy and society from the coronavirus pandemic in a way that is cleaner, greener and more resilient. We have just launched a £40 million Green Recovery Challenge Fund, bringing forward funding to help charities and environmental organisations start work on projects across England to restore nature and tackle climate change; and the £3 billion green investment package that could help support around 140,000 green jobs and upgrade buildings to help reduce emissions.</p> <p>Our landmark Environment, Fisheries and Agriculture Bills will also underpin green recovery. Our legislative agenda will protect and recover our precious natural environment and diverse ecosystems. This is in line with our 25 Year Environment Plan and our commitments to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it and to deliver the most ambitious environmental programme of any country on earth. Here</p>
09/10/20	Press release	HM Treasury	<p>Updates to the Covid Corporate Financing Facility here</p>
13/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Local Restrictions Support Grant - UIN 101058</p> <p>Anneliese Dodds (Oxford East): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the five per cent top-up for discretionary business support that can be received by local authorities in receipt of funds under the Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme, on what basis the five per cent is calculated; and at what stage local authorities are notified of the size of the five per cent top-up.</p> <p>Paul Scully (Sutton and Cheam): The 5% discretionary element of the Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme is designed to help those businesses that are required to close but are not on the ratings list, as well as those affected by closures or indirectly forced to close due to restrictions. This funding will only be available in areas that have triggered the main Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme element.</p>

			<p>The Government will work with the affected Local Authority to assess the number of businesses in a Local Authority area in scope for the business rate element of the scheme. This will enable a figure to be calculated for that part of the grant fund. An additional 5% of this figure will be supplied to cover the discretionary element of the fund. This will apply for each two-week qualifying period. Here</p>
13/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Coronavirus Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund - UIN 98928</p> <p>Richard Fuller (North East Bedfordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the coronavirus local authority discretionary grants scheme, whether his Department has made an assessment of the effect of the introduction of additional criteria by local authorities in addition to those criteria set by his Department.</p> <p>Paul Scully (Sutton and Cheam): The Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (LADGF) announced on 1 May has supported many thousands of small businesses in England not liable for business rates or rates reliefs and therefore out of scope of the main Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF) and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund (RHGLF) schemes. The Department asked local authorities to prioritise certain types of businesses through the LADGF, but we also allowed them the discretion to add additional local eligibility criteria according to local economic need. Local authorities naturally took different approaches to this since they differ in scale and local requirements. Here</p>
13/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Coronavirus Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund - UIN 98927</p> <p>Richard Fuller (North East Bedfordshire): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, with reference to the coronavirus local authority discretionary grants scheme, how many local authorities added additional eligibility criteria to the scheme.</p> <p>Paul Scully (Sutton and Cheam): The Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (LADGF) announced on 1 May was established to support certain small businesses not liable for business rates or rates reliefs and therefore out of scope of the main Small Business Grants Fund (SBGF)</p>

			and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants Fund (RHLGF) schemes. The department asked local authorities to prioritise certain types of businesses through the LADGF, but we also allowed them the discretion to add additional local eligibility criteria according to local economic need. We do not receive management information from local authorities on local scheme eligibility criteria over the lifetime of the LADGF. Here
13/10/20	Question	HoL / DCMS	<p>Social Enterprises: Coronavirus - UIN HL8819 Lord Kennedy Of Southwark: To ask Her Majesty's Government what support they are giving to social enterprises to help with the changed circumstances and increased costs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Baroness Barran: The Government continues to champion social enterprises and the significant and wide-ranging contributions they make to our society, and more recently in the response to the pandemic including in health, social care and community support. There is no doubt that social enterprises are facing significant challenges and many have adapted their business models and operations to adjust to the new circumstances.</p> <p>Social enterprises have access to the support measures that the Government has put in place to support organisations through the pandemic, including loan schemes, business rate reliefs, flexibility around tax payments and grants. A £750m targeted funding package has been made available to support the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector to allow organisations to continue to provide vital services to those affected by COVID-19. This unprecedented funding is in addition to the significant package of support that has been made available across sectors, which social enterprises can access. This includes the Job Retention Scheme, the Business Loan Interruption Scheme, and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund and more recent measures including the Job Support Scheme and the Kickstart scheme. A further £150 million from dormant bank and building society accounts has been unlocked to support urgent work tackling youth unemployment, providing emergency loans for civil society organisations and improving the availability</p>

			<p>of fair, affordable credit to people in vulnerable circumstances. Last month the Government announced a social value procurement framework for central government contracts. This presents a real opportunity to grow social enterprises' involvement in public sector supply chains. Here</p>
13/10/20	Debate	HM Treasury	<p>Public Health Restrictions: Government Economic Support - Volume 682 Session 2020-2021</p> <p>Anneliese Dodds (Oxford East) (Lab/Co-op) (Urgent Question): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on economic support available to individuals and businesses in areas of the country subject to additional public health restrictions.</p> <p>The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Steve Barclay): Yesterday, the Prime Minister and the Chancellor set out further measures to support local authorities through the crisis. On Friday, the Chancellor set out how we will support jobs in every part of the UK through an extension of the job support scheme, and these announcements build on the Chancellor's September statement on the winter economic plan. More here</p>
14/10/20	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Remote Working: Non-domestic Rates - UIN 99642</p> <p>Rebecca Long Bailey (Salford and Eccles): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with reference to the Government's call for employees to work from home where possible, if his Department will grant a 12 months' business rates holiday to the flexible workspace industry, in line with other service sectors.</p> <p>Jesse Norman (Hereford and South Herefordshire): The Government has provided enhanced support through business rates relief to eligible businesses occupying properties used for retail, hospitality and leisure. A range of other measures to support all business, including the flexible workspace industry, have also been made available. On 8 July the Chancellor set out a package of measures to support jobs across the UK, including a Job Retention Bonus to help firms keep furloughed workers. On 24 September the Chancellor went further and announced the Job Support Scheme to further protect jobs. Here</p>

14/10/20	Speech	BEIS	BEIS: Speech by Business Secretary, Alok Sharma, at the 2020 Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the Board of Governors of the World Bank Group on a sustainable recovery for people and planet (14 October 2020) here
16/10/20	Press release	DfIT	HMG launches Export Growth Plan to help businesses here
19/10/20	Written question	HM Treasury	Hospitality Industry: Coronavirus - UIN 103627 Jane Stevenson (Wolverhampton North East) : To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if he will grant a business rates exemption to hospitality venues during the covid-19 outbreak. Jesse Norman (Hereford and South Herefordshire) : The Government has provided 100 per cent business rates relief for 12 months from 1 April 2020 to eligible businesses occupying properties in England used for retail, hospitality and leisure. Here
22/10/20	Debate summary	HM Treasury	Covid-19: Economy Update - Volume 682 Chancellor of Exchequer here
27/10/20	Written question	HM Treasury	Coronavirus: Disease Control - UIN 105620 Stephen Farry (North Down) : To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of automatically allocating additional financial and economic support to areas where covid-19 risks and associated restrictions are increased and prolonged relative to the rest of the UK. And: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of providing scaled, automatic additional financial support to regions which move into (a) high and (b) very high covid-19 local alert levels. UIN 105621 Kemi Badenoch (Saffron Walden) : As measures to control the virus change, government support has evolved. The government continues to take a flexible approach and recognises the evolving situation with the pandemic and health restrictions, and the impact this is having on areas. Which is why on 22 October, the Chancellor announced a package specifically for those businesses which are not forced to close, but face reduced demand due to additional social distancing restrictions:... More here

Energy projects – local authority

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
28/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Renewable Energy: Subsidies - UIN 106509</p> <p>Marco Longhi (Dudley North): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will review the eligibility criteria for Government green subsidies to enable more community buildings to access funding to install renewable energy sources.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): The £10m Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) provides non-capital grant support to rural communities in England. RCEF grants cover the costs for feasibility and further project development work to bring community renewable energy projects to an investment-ready stage. The RCEF eligibility criteria ensures funding is only allocated to projects that demonstrate value to the taxpayer.</p> <p>The Smart Export Guarantee (SEG) gives small scale low-carbon electricity generators, including community energy projects, the right to be paid for the renewable electricity they export to the grid. There are currently more than 10 SEG tariffs on offer from electricity suppliers, which small scale generators can choose from. Here</p>

Environment – 25 year environment plan/Bill

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
02/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Anaerobic Digestion UIN 95241</p> <p>Charlotte Nichols (Warrington North): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will ensure that the Environment Bill 2019-21 includes a requirement for slurries and digestates to be spread using low-emission equipment such as (a) trailing shoe, (b) trailing hose and (c) injection by 2025.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government has made legally binding commitments to reduce ammonia emissions from 2005 levels by 8% and 16% by 2020 and 2030, respectively. Over the next few years the Government will introduce legislation requiring farmers to reduce ammonia emissions and is already</p>

			<p>supporting farmers to undertake best practice and invest in the farm infrastructure and equipment that will reduce emissions.</p> <p>The Clean Air Strategy sets out the actions that will be taken to reduce ammonia emissions in England. These include a requirement to spread slurry and digestate using low-emission spreading equipment by 2025, for slurry and digestate stores to be covered by 2027 and for manure to be rapidly incorporated into bare soil. We have not included specific commitments to legislate in the Environment or Agriculture Bills because the Clean Air Strategy sets out the plans for legislation in this area and we have existing powers to enable introduction of the legislation to reduce ammonia emissions set out in the Strategy. Here</p>
02/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Anaerobic Digestion</p> <p>Charlotte Nichols (Warrington North): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, if he will ensure that the Environment Bill 2019-21 includes a requirement for slurry and digestate stores to be covered by 2027. [95242]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government has made legally binding commitments to reduce ammonia emissions from 2005 levels by 8% and 16% by 2020 and 2030, respectively. Over the next few years the Government will introduce legislation requiring farmers to reduce ammonia emissions and is already supporting farmers to undertake best practice and invest in the farm infrastructure and equipment that will reduce emissions.</p> <p>The Clean Air Strategy sets out the actions that will be taken to reduce ammonia emissions in England. These include a requirement to spread slurry and digestate using low-emission spreading equipment by 2025, for slurry and digestate stores to be covered by 2027 and for manure to be rapidly incorporated into bare soil. We have not included specific commitments to legislate in the Environment or Agriculture Bills because the Clean Air Strategy sets out the plans for legislation in this area and we have existing powers to enable introduction of the legislation to reduce</p>

			ammonia emissions set out in the Strategy. Here
02/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Fertilisers - UIN 95243</p> <p>Charlotte Nichols (Warrington North): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of including in the Environment Bill a requirement for all solid manure and solid digestate spread to bare land other than that managed in a no-till system to be incorporated rapidly within 12 hours.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government has made legally binding commitments to reduce ammonia emissions from 2005 levels by 8% and 16% by 2020 and 2030, respectively. Over the next few years the Government will introduce legislation requiring farmers to reduce ammonia emissions and is already supporting farmers to undertake best practice and invest in the farm infrastructure and equipment that will reduce emissions.</p> <p>The Clean Air Strategy sets out the actions that will be taken to reduce ammonia emissions in England. These include a requirement to spread slurry and digestate using low-emission spreading equipment by 2025, for slurry and digestate stores to be covered by 2027 and for manure to be rapidly incorporated into bare soil. We have not included specific commitments to legislate in the Environment or Agriculture Bills because the Clean Air Strategy sets out the plans for legislation in this area and we have existing powers to enable introduction of the legislation to reduce ammonia emissions set out in the Strategy. Here</p>
02/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Biofuels: Crops UIN 95134</p> <p>Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to encourage the integration of bioenergy crops into agricultural and soil management strategies.</p> <p>Victoria Prentis (Banbury): The Government supports the generation of heat and power from low carbon technologies, including those using crops and forestry biomass, helping to deliver the Net Zero greenhouse</p>

			<p>gas emissions target for 2050. The Government recently consulted on the future support for low carbon heat, which includes proposals for a Green Gas Support Scheme and a Clean Heat Grant with support for heat pumps and in some instances, biomass. Government also consulted on the introduction of E10 bioethanol transport petrol this year, where domestic production can utilise energy crops.</p> <p>The Agriculture Bill contains provisions for financial assistance in England to manage land in a way that mitigates the effects of climate change, and for starting or improving the productivity of agricultural and forestry activity.</p> <p>The Government recognises soil is one of our greatest natural assets and is essential for underpinning a range of benefits such as flood mitigation, food production and carbon storage. The 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP) sets out Governments ambition to replenish depleted soil and restore its fertility so that soils are sustainably managed by 2030. In order to meet this ambition, we are developing a healthy soils indicator for England as part of 25YEP. The future monitoring scheme through the soil indicator will be able to inform us on the impact of changes in land management practices, including the wider take-up of bioenergy crops in rotations. here</p>
02/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Sanitary Products: Plastics - UIN 95216 & UIN 95217 (same answer) Luke Pollard (Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with manufacturers of sanitary products on reducing the plastic content of those products.</p> <p>To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what estimate he has made of the contribution of sanitary products to plastic pollution in UK waters.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The UK collects data on the quantity and type of marine litter in our waters, including data on seafloor litter, floating litter and beach litter, following methods agreed through the OSPAR Convention's monitoring and assessment programmes. This includes data</p>

			<p>on sanitary products. Data are available through the Marine Online Assessment Tool: https://moat.cefas.co.uk/</p> <p>Cotton buds are recorded as a sanitary product and feature as a top ten item recorded on some UK beaches. Since 1 October this year there has been a ban on the supply of plastic straws, cotton buds and stirrers in England, with exemptions in place to ensure disabled people and those with medical conditions that require straws can continue to access them. We are seeking new powers in our landmark Environment Bill to drive the market towards more sustainable products, including powers to introduce ecodesign requirements and to require retailers to charge for single-use plastic items.</p> <p>Plastic does, however, have an important role to play in many products due to its strength and sterility. We must therefore think carefully about how we solve the problems arising from plastic waste in order to avoid unintended consequences. We regularly meet with producers, including of sanitary products, to discuss the overall sustainability of their products, and will continue to do so. Here</p>
05/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Protection: Crime - UIN 95622 Harriett Baldwin (West Worcestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to make ecocide a crime.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): This Government is committed to improving the environment in the UK and internationally. Environmental laws and other safeguards are in place and monitored by effective regulators and tiers of Government. The Environment Bill will create a new, independent statutory body (the Office for Environmental Protection) with the principal objective of contributing to environmental protection and the improvement of the natural environment.</p> <p>The Government is also consulting on a new law designed to prevent forests and other important natural areas from being converted illegally into agricultural land. If approved, this will require a relatively small number of larger businesses to ensure that</p>

			the 'forest risk' commodities they use – commodities that can cause wide-scale deforestation – have been produced legally. Here
22/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Office for Environmental Protection: Public Appointments - UIN 103480 Caroline Lucas (Brighton, Pavilion): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the Answer of 16 June 2020 Question 57161, what assessment he has made of the effect of the (a) timetable for the Environment Bill and (b) covid-19 outbreak on the public appointments timescales for the board of the proposed Office for Environmental Protection.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) Chair and Non-Executive Director (NED) campaigns have accounted for potential changes to the timetable of the Environment Bill. The published Chair candidate pack outlined that should there be a delay to Royal Assent, then the chair would be appointed to Defra as the "OEP Chair Designate." They would then transfer to the OEP as Chair upon Royal Assent. This arrangement will also be mirrored in the NED campaign pack. The Chair Designate (and subsequently NED Designates) would therefore be available to be involved in activities to support the OEP and any interim arrangements. We do not anticipate that COVID-19 will have any further impact on the OEP public appointment timescales. Here</p>
23/10/20	Press release	EA & EFRA committees	Committee Chairs Question Powers of Stop-Gap 'Independent' Environmental Regulator here
26/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Environment Bill - UIN 105542 Luke Pollard (Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how many organisations (a) his Department has asked to sign and (b) have signed non-disclosure agreements in relation to the Environment Bill.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): No non-disclosure agreements have been signed in relation to the Environment Bill other than by those contracted by the Government to undertake work on the long-term implementation of Bill policies. No non-disclosure agreements have been signed</p>

			<p>which relate to the drafting of Environment Bill legislation or amendments. Defra has asked two contractors to sign non-disclosure agreements as part of their contracts to undertake work in relation to long-term work on implementation of policies introduced by the Environment Bill. Both of those contractors who have been asked to sign non-disclosure agreements have done so. These are standard non-disclosure agreements for any company or individual carrying out work for the Government. Here</p>
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Environment – Air quality

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
29/09/20	Debate	HoL/Defra	<p>Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020 Motion to Approve (a) Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park That the draft Regulations laid before the House on 21 July be approved.</p> <p>Relevant document: 25th Report from the Secondary Legislation Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>(a) 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, the instrument before you includes the measures to phase out the supply of the most polluting fuels used in the home. These fuels are traditional house coal and wet wood, or wood with a moisture content of more than 20% when sold in units under two cubic metres. It also introduces sulphur and smoke emission limits for manufactured solid fuels. These measures will come into force in a staged process from 1 May 2021 to 2023. Debate here</p>
05/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 97045 Zarah Sultana (Coventry South): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent steps his Department has taken to align the UK's target for PM2.5 with the World Health Organisation's guideline amount.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): In July 2019, the Government published a report assessing the progress that will be made towards World Health Organization (WHO)</p>

			<p>guidelines under a range of scenarios. The report concluded that while significant progress would be made by achieving existing 2030 emissions ceilings, additional action would be required in large urban areas such as London to achieve the current WHO guideline level. The analysis did not outline a pathway to achieve the WHO guideline level for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) 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 PM2.5, demonstrating our commitment to action on the air pollutant that has the most significant impact on human health. We are committed to setting ambitious 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 are already working with independent experts and engaging with stakeholders on how we will approach setting these targets. here</p>
08/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Air Pollution - UIN 99150 <u>Abena Oppong-Asare (Erith and Thamesmead)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the UK meets its targets on air quality.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane)</u>: The UK meets all legal air quality obligations, except for nitrogen dioxide (NO 2) concentration limit values at the roadside, and the latest UK compliance data in 2019 shows an improvement since 2018. The Government published the UK plan for tackling roadside NO 2 concentrations in July 2017, followed by a supplement in October 2018. The plan and supplement set out how the Government will achieve compliance with legal limits for NO 2 in the shortest possible time, supported by a £3.8 billion investment into air quality and cleaner transport.</p> <p>In January 2019, the Government also published a comprehensive Clean Air Strategy, which aims to cut air pollution across all sectors and sits alongside the</p>

			<p>2017 plan. This strategy sets out the comprehensive action required across all areas of government and society to reduce air pollution and meet our ambitious air pollutant emission targets for 2020 and 2030. The Environment Bill delivers key parts of the Clean Air Strategy and will enable and drive more effective action to improve air quality. Here</p>
15/10/20	Oral answers	Defra	<p>Air Pollution: Motor Vehicles - Volume 682 907580</p> <p>Kate Osborne (Lab) (Jarrow): What recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the level of air pollution from motor vehicles since covid-19 lockdown restrictions were eased in August 2020.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs): Nitrogen oxide levels are rising again after lockdown as traffic levels increase. We continue to take urgent action to curb the impact of air pollution on communities throughout England through our ambitious clean air strategy and the delivery of a £3.8 billion plan to clean up transport and tackle NOx pollution. The Government continue to engage with local authorities to deliver clean air zones, and through the Environment Bill we will take greater action on tackling air pollution.</p> <p>Kate Osborne: As the north-east seeks to reduce its level of air pollution, will the Minister join me in supporting initiatives such as that proposed for the Tyne tunnel, where a new free-flow payment system will reduce carbon emissions from vehicles using the tunnel by a massive 90%? Furthermore, will the Minister commit to working with colleagues in the Department for Transport to ensure that orders to implement the system are introduced to the House when available, so that air quality improves in the Jarrow constituency and in the region more widely?</p> <p>Rebecca Pow: The hon. Lady raises an important point. I am really heartened that she is thinking about the health of her constituents, because air pollution, especially fine particulate matter, is the single greatest health impact that we currently have to deal with. I would be happy to meet the hon. Lady to discuss</p>

			<p>any actions. She is absolutely right to point out that her local authority is taking action on many of these measures. The Government have provided a number of funds to support local work on reducing pollution levels in traffic. Here</p>
15/10/20	Oral answers	Defra	<p>Air Pollution – Volume 682 Ellie Reeves (Lab) (Lewisham West and Penge) and Vicky Foxcroft (Lab) (Lewisham, Deptford): What plans the Government has to reduce air pollution. [907588]</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs): I am like a jack-in-a-box this morning, Mr Speaker, with one question after another. Our clean air strategy sets out an ambitious programme of action to reduce air pollution from a wide range of sources. We have also put in place a £3.8 billion plan to tackle roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations. The Environment Bill makes a clear commitment to set a legally binding target to reduce fine particulate matter and will enable local authorities to take more effective action to combat pollution in their areas.</p> <p>Ellie Reeves [V]: Prior to covid-19, polluted air was contributing to more than 40,000 premature deaths each year. If we are to reduce that awful statistic, we must set enforceable targets to bring air pollution down below harmful levels, so does the Minister agree that the Government's Environment Bill must have air quality targets that follow World Health Organisation guidance and have an attainment deadline of 2030 or before? More here</p>
19/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>National Parks: Pollution Control - UIN 101332 Andrew Griffith (Arundel and South Downs): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what discussions he has had with National Park Authorities on strengthening protections against light pollution.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The Government is engaging with National Park Authorities on a range of matters including the delivery of the 25-year Environment Plan and the Landscapes Review recommendations. There have been no</p>

			<p>recent discussions with National Park Authorities on the specific issue of strengthening protections against light pollution. The government has put in place a range of measures to ensure that light pollution is effectively managed through controls in the planning system; the statutory nuisance regime, and when improvements are made to street lighting.</p> <p>My department has worked with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Transport to ensure that the National Planning Policy Framework policies include consideration of the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation, including where there may be impacts on wildlife and eco-systems. We strongly welcome the designation of the South Downs National Park as an International Dark Sky Reserve, one of only 16 in the world. As a result of this designation the South Downs National Park Local Plan, adopted on 2 July 2019, has incorporated local policies to protect dark skies. We welcome the adoption of local policies for dark sky protection and understand their extension to other National Parks is under consideration. Here</p>
19/10/20	Question	HoL/Defra	<p>Office for Environmental Protection - UIN HL8727</p> <p>Baroness Jones Of Whitchurch: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they expect that the Office for Environmental Protection will be fully operational; and what its budget allocation will be from 1 January 2021.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: The Government still intends to bring the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) into operation in 2021, but due to the pause in the Environment Bill's passage and the wider context of Covid-19, we cannot yet confirm exactly when the OEP will start. We will implement transitional arrangements, with a secretariat to support the OEP chair currently being sought in a public appointment campaign. This will be in place from the start of next year until the OEP can begin its statutory functions.</p> <p>Defra will agree with HM Treasury a budget that will be ring-fenced for each spending</p>

			<p>review period, giving the OEP greater certainty over its finances. The budget will be announced as soon as possible after the Environment Bill achieves Royal Assent. Here</p>
19/10/20	Question	HoL/Defra	<p>Environment Bill - UIN HL8726 Baroness Jones Of Whitchurch: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the regulatory gap that would occur as a result of the Environment Bill not being enacted by 1 January 2021; and what steps they plan to take to ensure there is continuity in the transfer of EU protections into UK law during any such gap.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 will make sure all existing EU environmental law continues to operate in UK law at the end of the transition period, providing businesses and stakeholders with certainty. We have a long history of environmental protection supported by a strong legal framework which predates membership of the EU, and we will safeguard and improve on this record.</p> <p>As regards scrutiny of the implementation of environmental measures, the Government intends to bring the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) into operation in 2021. The delay to the Environment Bill due to Covid-19 means it will not be formally established by the beginning of the year. However, an interim secretariat will support the OEP Chair and will receive complaints about alleged failures of public authorities to comply with environmental law from the start of next year. This will be in place until the OEP can begin its statutory functions. Once established, the OEP will then be able to use its legal powers to investigate complaints reported to the interim team from 1 January 2021, and could take enforcement action against serious failures if necessary. As a result, there will be no gap in time where public authorities cannot be held to account. Here</p>
20/10/20	Debate summary	HoC	<p>Local Clean Air Targets - Vol 682 That this House has considered local clean air targets. here</p>

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
29/09/20	Written answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Climate Change: Citizens' Juries - UIN HL8139</p> <p>Lord Pendra: To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have, if any, to establish a citizen's assembly on climate policy.</p> <p>Lord Callanan: Achieving our net zero target must be a shared endeavour between governments, businesses and individuals. Looking ahead, it will be crucially important to engage the public on this challenge. The Government has invited the public to shape policies on climate change through mechanisms such as consultations and deliberative workshops, and we regularly survey on public attitudes on climate change. We welcome the Climate Assembly UK final report and will be looking closely at its findings. We will continue to engage the public as we develop our plans for reaching net zero emissions by 2050. here</p>
30/09/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Climate Change - UIN 93621</p> <p>Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer to of 21 May 2020 to Question 47349, what the definition of the target period of well ahead of COP26 is; and what progress he has made on submission of a Nationally Determined Contribution.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): My Rt. Hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced at the UN Climate Action Roundtable on 24th September that the UK will co-host with the UN an event to mark the five-year anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement on 12th December 2020. This will provide an opportunity for all those who are ready to submit bold new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and transformational net zero targets to do so. Here</p>
01/10/20	Question	HoL	<p>Net Zero Review - Hansard</p> <p>Baroness Hayman: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the Net Zero Review will take into account co-benefits, including those relating to (1) improved health, (2) productivity, and (3) employment, in calculating the costs and investments needed to reach net zero emissions.</p>

			<p>Baroness Penn (Con): My Lords, the net-zero review will cover how the transition to net zero will be funded and assess options for where the costs will fall. This involves analysing the range of options for how households, businesses and the taxpayer could contribute to the costs of transition, as well as maximising opportunities for economic growth as we transition to a green economy. We will need to evaluate the trade-offs between costs, competitiveness, effects on consumers and impacts on taxpayers... More here</p>
02/10/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Renewable Fuels: Transport - UIN 95130 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of introducing an effective minimum price for Renewable Transport Fuel to help ensure the value of (a) biomethane and (b) other low-carbon fuels.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): A market for low carbon fuels used in transport, including biomethane, is promoted by the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) certificate trading scheme. Under the scheme the minimum value of renewable transport fuel certificates (RTFCs), which can be rewarded to a range of low carbon fuels, is not fixed but is determined by the market. One of the benefits of the RTFO market-based scheme is in providing flexibility to suppliers in meeting their obligation thereby ensuring costs passed on to consumers are minimised. The Department continually keeps the support schemes applicable to low carbon fuels used in transport under review to ensure these deliver cost effective reductions in emissions in line with UK Carbon budgets. Here</p>
02/10/20	Written answers	HoL/DfT	<p>Biofuels - UIN HL8288 Lord Kennedy Of Southwark: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of (1) the biofuels market in the UK, and (2) that market's potential for growth.</p> <p>Baroness Vere Of Norbiton: The Government set out a fifteen-year strategy for renewable transport fuels in September 2017 which is available in the Libraries of the House. As part of that strategy we almost doubled targets for the supply of</p>

			<p>renewable fuels under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) between 2018 and 2020, with further increases to at least 12.4 per cent set for 2032. The Cost Benefit Analysis which accompanied that strategy set out in Appendix 3 estimated the effect on renewable fuel supply in the UK. This suggested the increases in targets could result in a UK renewable fuel market of 2.237 billion litres in 2018, 2.568 billion litres in 2019 and 3.372 billion litres in 2020. In 2018 2.01 billion litres of renewable fuel was reported as supplied under the RTFO, and provisional data suggests 2.68 billion litres of renewable fuel was supplied in 2019. The Department continues to monitor and review the support schemes it has in place for low carbon fuels across several modes of transport, to ensure these deliver cost effective carbon savings now and in future.</p> <p>Here</p>
02/10/20	Press release	BEIS Committee	<p>MyBEIS inquiry – topics taken forward</p> <p>The Committee's inquiry on decarbonising heating in homes is part of the BEIS Committee's ongoing work on net zero and its follow-up to the findings of the Climate Assembly. The Committee's inquiry will also seek to incorporate a range of issues raised by the other participants, including on the future of hydrogen, consumer protections, tackling fuel poverty, the role of local government and delivering a transition that is fair for all.</p> <p>In future months, the Committee will also be undertaking work on a series of other topics proposed in pitches at the MyBEIS hearing – further details of inquiry work on i) Carbon pricing ii) decarbonising industry and iii) the institutional arrangements to meet net zero, will be announced in due course. here</p>
05/10/20	Written question	HoL/BEIS	<p>Power Stations: Coastal Areas - UIN HL8310</p> <p>Lord Goodlad: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the potential effect of rises in sea levels on the operation of coastal power stations.</p> <p>Lord Callanan: Great Britain has a reliable energy system and maintaining a safe and resilient energy supply is a key priority for this Government. The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) works with industry, regulators, sector bodies and other stakeholders to improve</p>

			<p>and maintain the resilience of the energy infrastructure, networks and assets, to reduce vulnerabilities, and ensure an effective response to actual or potentially disruptive incidents.</p> <p>The 2008 Climate Change Act gave the Government powers to require organisations such as electricity generating companies, to carry out climate change risk assessments on their assets, and report on how they are adapting to climate change. Through this work, generating companies have assessed that, due to the robust flood mitigation measures that have been put in place, existing assets are at low risk from climate related hazards such as flooding. Additionally, planning applications for all new build power stations must demonstrate that companies have adequately taken into account the potential impacts of climate change, in their design. This ensures that our power stations continue to remain resilient to future climate related risks. here</p>
05/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Climate Change - UIN 97641 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, pursuant to the Answer of 30 September 2020 to Question 93621, if the Government will publish its Nationally Determined Contribution by 12 December 2020; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): We are currently working on our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), including on the timing for its publication. Here</p>
07/10/20	Statement	BEIS	<p>BEIS: Business Update The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a written ministerial statement on Business Update. Statement made by Alok Sharma, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</p> <p>Today, the Prime Minister announced new investment of £160 million to support offshore wind, and a new level of ambition for the next round of the renewable Contracts for Difference energy auction. This funding will support major new port side manufacturing hubs, so that the UK can host the factories making the next generation of offshore wind equipment.</p>

			<p>The Government also confirmed a boost to its previous target to deliver up to 30GW of offshore wind to delivering 40GW by 2030. The Government also announced a new ambition for 1GW of the new 40GW by 2030 target to come from floating offshore wind – a brand new technology allowing windfarms to be built further out to sea in deeper waters, boosting capacity even further. This will put the UK at the forefront of the next generation of clean energy. Together with planned stringent requirements on supporting UK manufacturers in Government-backed renewables projects, these measures will help the industry to reach its target of 60% of offshore wind farm content coming from the UK, helping to also boost lower-carbon supply chains.</p> <p>To help deliver these ambitious targets and accelerate the country's progress towards net zero emissions by 2050, the Government has confirmed that the next round of the renewable energy auction will open in late 2021 and aim to deliver up to twice the capacity of last year's successful round – potentially providing enough clean energy for up to 10 million homes.</p> <p>Today's announcement marks the latest stage of the Government's support for renewable energy and acceleration of the transition to net zero. The Prime Minister has set out new plans to build back better and build back greener by making the UK the world leader in clean wind energy – creating jobs, reducing carbon emissions and boosting exports. Here</p>
07/10/20	Written questions	DfT	<p>Aviation: Carbon Emissions UIN 96895 Jim Shannon (Strangford): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to support carbon-free air travel.</p> <p>Robert Courts (Witney): The recently formed Jet Zero Council will focus on developing UK capability to deliver net zero emission commercial flight. This includes considering how to develop and industrialise clean aviation and aerospace technologies, establish UK production facilities for sustainable aviation fuels and develop a coordinated approach to the policy and regulatory framework needed to deliver net zero aviation by 2050.</p>

			<p>The Government has a range of additional programmes to support research and technology on electric flight. These include the Aerospace Technology Institute Programme (£1.95 billion public funding commitment, 2013 to 2026) and the Future Flight Challenge (£125 million public funding).</p> <p>The Government has also supported the establishment of an Innovation Hub within the Civil Aviation Authority which supports the regulator to engage with innovative companies - such as those developing electric flight - to bring products to market safely. Recent changes to the Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation make renewable aviation fuels eligible for reward. The Future Fuels for Flight and Freight Competition makes £20 million of capital funding available to projects that will produce low carbon waste-based fuels to be used in aeroplanes and lorries. We are planning to consult shortly to update the Government's position on aviation and climate change. It is critical that aviation plays its part in delivering the UK's net zero ambitions. here</p>
07/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Companies: Carbon Emissions UIN 98737 Sarah Olney (Richmond Park): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the compatibility of (a) the Government's criteria for COP26 sponsors that companies should have set ambitious net zero commitments by 2050 or earlier, with a credible short-term action plan to achieve this and (b) COP26 organisers holding discussions with (i) Equinor, (ii) Shell and (iii) BP on sponsorship of COP26.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): The Government has set strict sponsorship criteria for COP26 and will partner with companies who have set ambitious net zero commitments by 2050 or earlier, with a credible short-term action plan to achieve this. The Government will continue to talk to a wide range of companies as part of wider COP26 policy engagement to move the global economy to net zero emissions. here</p>
08/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Electricity Generation: Carbon Emissions - UIN 98289 Zarah Sultana (Coventry South): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, if he will ensure that</p>

			<p>following his consultation on contracts for difference for low carbon electricity (a) biomass plants are ineligible to compete for those contracts with offshore wind and other renewable technologies and (b) the greenhouse gas threshold and minimum efficiency requirement applied in 2018 will be included in regulations and applied to all future allocation rounds.</p> <p><u>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne)</u>: The consultation on changes to the Contracts for Difference (CfD) scheme closed on 29 May 2020 and a Government response will be published in due course. As part of this consultation, we indicated our intention to remove biomass conversion technologies from the CfD scheme. Sustainable, low carbon bioenergy is helping the UK move to a low- carbon energy mix, increasing our energy security, and keeping costs down for consumers. We have introduced mandatory sustainability criteria for biomass generation for heat and power. This is to ensure biomass continues to support the UK's commitment to reduce carbon emissions and is sourced sustainably. Generators only receive subsidies for electricity output which complies with our sustainability criteria.</p> <p>The greenhouse gas (GHG) threshold and minimum efficiency requirements applied in 2018 were incorporated into the CfD Standard Terms and Conditions and so will apply to future allocation rounds. here</p>
08/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Climate Change - UIN 98250</p> <p><u>Rachael Maskell (York Central)</u>: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to ensure that the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill will help the UK achieve commitments agreed under the 2015 UN Paris Climate Agreement.</p> <p><u>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne)</u>: The Climate Change Act 2008 was the first of its kind in the world and made the UK the first country to introduce a legally binding, long-term emissions reduction target. In June 2019, following advice from the Committee on Climate Change, the UK Government set a legally binding target to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions from across the UK economy by 2050. In doing so, the UK became the first major economy to</p>

			<p>legislate for a net zero target. This will bring an end to the UK's contribution to climate change.</p> <p>The Government is deeply committed to domestic and international efforts to tackle climate change. This year alone, the Government has committed billions in spending as we increase support for our low-carbon economy and green jobs. In November 2021, the UK will provide global leadership on climate change as President Designate and host of COP26 in Glasgow. We are determined to use this platform to raise global climate ambitions to achieve the transformational change required by the Paris Agreement. Here</p>
08/10/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Transport: Hydrogen - UIN 99013 Patricia Gibson (North Ayrshire and Arran): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the role of hydrogen in the strategy to decarbonise transport.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): Government is committed to tackling climate change and delivering our net zero commitment and Ministers regularly discuss this with Cabinet colleagues. Last week we announced that Tees Valley will be the UK's first Hydrogen Transport Hub, bringing together industry, academia and government to accelerate UK's take up of green hydrogen. This aligns with wider plans to driver forward progress by funding 19 new hydrogen powered refuse trucks in Glasgow and starting trials for Britain's first hydrogen powered train. We are committed to exploring all the options for green hydrogen across freight, buses, trains, maritime and aviation and ensuring the UK can leads the world in its deployment and use in transport applications. Here</p>
15/10/20	Question	HoL / Treasury	<p>Net Zero Review: Finance - UIN HL8662 Lord Browne Of Ladyton: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether an assessment of funding for (1) a low carbon reskilling strategy, and (2) a public engagement strategy, will be included in the Net Zero Review</p> <p>Lord Agnew Of Oulton: The objectives and scope of HMT 's Net Zero Review are set out in the terms of reference, published in November 2019, and are available on the GOV.UK website. The Review will explore</p>

			<p>how the transition to a net zero economy will be funded, and where the costs will fall. The Review will look at options for a balance of contributions between households, businesses and the taxpayer, and how to maximise economic growth opportunities from the transition. The government has announced that the Review will be published in Spring 2021. In the meantime, HMT will publish an interim report this autumn 2020. This will set out our approach to the Review and analysis which will inform the final report. here</p>
15/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Coal: Carbon Emissions - UIN 101008 Catherine McKinnell (Newcastle upon Tyne North): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the effect of increases in the domestic supply of coal on global carbon emissions.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): Domestic production of coal, alongside the amounts of coal imported in the UK, have been steadily declining in the last five years. This is evidenced by the figures published by the Department here: DUKES table 2.4. In order to tackle climate change and deliver a net zero economy by 2050, we need to further reduce our use of coal. We are among the first countries in the world to commit to closing all unabated coal power plants. We intend to do this by 2024. Here</p>
16/10/20	Statement	BEIS	<p>BEIS: Business Update The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has published a written ministerial statement on a Business Update here</p>
16/10/20	Press release	Committee on Climate Change	<p>CCC welcomes Government commitment to publish Net Zero Strategy here</p>
19/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Carbon Emissions - UIN 103573 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, when he plans to publish a response to the Committee on Climate Change report entitled, Reducing UK Emissions Progress Report to Parliament, published in June 2020.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): The Government response to the Committee on Climate Change's report Reducing UK Emissions Progress Report to Parliament was laid in Parliament on 15 October. A copy of</p>

			the response can be found online at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/committee-on-climate-changes-2020-progress-report-government-response . Here
22/10/20	Press release	LEP Network	LEPs Focus on Green Innovation to Drive Net Zero Growth here
23/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Finance - UIN 106443</p> <p>Sarah Olney (Richmond Park): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of community energy to meeting the fourth and fifth greenhouse gas emissions budgets under the Climate Change Act 2008.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): The Government is building on its Clean Growth Strategy and has already made significant progress towards meeting the UK's net zero target. We have met our first and second carbon budgets that were established under the Climate Change Act 2008, and we are on track for the third.</p> <p>As a Government, we have supported community energy through the £10m Rural Community Energy Fund, and through extensions for community groups under the Feed in Tariffs to ensure that communities can develop renewable energy projects. We are also working closely with Community Energy England on the Community Energy Hub and in creating a regional network of support for communities getting involved directly in reducing their carbon footprint. This includes developing a new tool for parish councils, as well as the SCATTER tool for local authorities.</p> <p>Our forthcoming sector strategies on energy, heat and buildings and the environment, and our wider plans to deliver a green economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, will contain further proposals to support us in meeting carbon budgets 4 and 5. Two cabinet committees, chaired by my Rt hon Friend the Prime Minister and my Rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, have also been established to turbo-charge the net zero transition and co-ordinate action across Government. Here</p>

26/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Renewable Energy - UIN 104778 Alexander Stafford (Rother Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to support (a) skills and (b) research and development in (i) low emission oil and gas extraction and (ii) hydrogen production; and what assessment he has made of the potential contribution of those technologies to export industry.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): We will support the offshore oil and gas sector with a transformational North Sea Transition Deal, which we have committed to deliver within this Parliament. The focus of this deal will be on ensuring the sector can support the energy transition and anchor the supply chain to the UK.</p> <p>The oil and gas sector has an important part to play in sustaining our energy security of supply, and in the energy transition to support net zero, having many of the essential skills and capabilities in its world class supply chain to support emerging technologies such as carbon capture and storage, hydrogen production, and infrastructure to reduce its production emissions. Developing this capability will help provide significant export opportunities as the world moves towards clean energy.</p> <p>In 2016, the Oil & Gas Technology Centre was established with £180 million funding, supported by the UK and Scottish Governments. The Centre aims to encourage, accelerate, and deliver innovation and innovative technologies in the North Sea as we transition to net zero. We are committed to exploring the option of hydrogen as a strategic decarbonised energy carrier. In line with this we are currently investing up to £121 million in hydrogen innovation, supporting a range of projects exploring the production and potential of low carbon hydrogen across the value chain.</p> <p>In November 2019, we published the Energy Innovation Needs Assessment for hydrogen and fuel cells. This identified that the future market for all hydrogen technologies could yield around £5.3bn of gross value added and create nearly</p>
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			50,000 jobs by 2050 to meet demand in export and domestic markets. Here
28/10/20	Oral answers	HoL/BEIS	<p>Clean Growth Fund – Volume 807 Baroness Benjamin: To ask Her Majesty's Government how much money has been given out from the Clean Growth Fund; and to which projects such money has been given.</p> <p>Lord Callanan (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy):My Lords, the £40 million Clean Growth Fund was launched in May 2020 as a commercially run venture capital fund managed by Clean Growth Investment Management. The fund manager has had over 400 expressions of interest from SMEs and intends to make several investments in UK companies this financial year. The Clean Growth Fund will develop a broad portfolio of companies investing in software and hardware across the power, transport, industry, buildings and waste sectors. More here</p>
29/10/20	Speech	BEIS	BEIS: Speech by Business Secretary Alok Sharma to all UN Member states ahead of the Climate Ambition Summit on 12 December 2020 (27 October 2020) here
29/10/20	Question	HoL/Defra	<p>Tree Planting - UIN HL9249 The Lord Bishop Of Salisbury: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to reach their tree planting target as set out in the Tree Planting Strategy; and if they have not reached that target, what assessment they have made of the reasons why they have not done so.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: We committed in our manifesto to increase tree planting across the UK to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025. As noted in a public paper this summer, we are exploring whether a statutory target for trees in England would be appropriate, under the target setting process proposed by the Environment Bill. To increase planting in England, we recently consulted on proposals for a new ambitious England Tree Strategy, which will be published in spring 2021. This will set out priority policies and plans for the £640m Nature for Climate Fund. The planting season begins soon, and we hope to build on the increasing annual planting rates seen in England over the last few years. Here</p>

Environment – Waste

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
01/10/20	Written question	Defra	<p>Anaerobic Digestion - UIN 95135 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to work with the agricultural sector to develop the market for digestate as an alternative to artificial fertilisers and encourage digestate upgrading.</p> <p>Victoria Prentis (Banbury): The definition of fertiliser in current regulation is being updated in the Agriculture Bill to include alternatives to traditional mineral based fertilisers, as the current definition does not allow for the effective regulation of non-traditional fertilisers.</p> <p>The UK-wide powers we are taking in the Agriculture Bill, currently before Parliament, will enable us to update current fertilisers legislation to enable new and innovative fertilisers to be marketed and provide farmers with a wider choice of more sustainable fertilisers (such as those from recycled wastes), as part of wider work to increase nutrient use efficiency, nutrient recycling and minimise pollution from fertilisers. The use of digestate needs to be considered alongside these other alternatives to traditional fertilisers. Stakeholder engagement, public consultation and a full impact assessment will be essential to inform a wider legislative review and subsequent secondary legislation. The use of digestate will naturally form part of this discussion.</p> <p>Defra has supported research into Anaerobic Digestion (AD) for over 20 years, first becoming involved in agricultural AD at the Silsoe agricultural technology institute and continuing this at a number of operational AD plants across the country. In addition, following support at consultation, we are legislating through the Environment Bill to introduce a statutory duty for waste collection authorities to arrange for the separate collection of food waste from households in England, at least weekly. Businesses and other organisations generating food</p>

			<p>waste will also be required to arrange for the separate collection of food waste. This material must be collected for recycling or composting. AD represents the best waste treatment method for unavoidable food waste due to the generation of biofuel and digestate. Local Authorities would be free to decide on the recycling route resulting from locally available infrastructure.</p> <p>AD can reduce greenhouse gas emissions (such as methane) from on-farm waste when best practice is used, though there is a risk of increased ammonia emissions, an environmental pollutant. AD represents the best environmental outcome for the treatment of unavoidable food waste, due to the generation of bio-fuel and digestate. Here</p>
01/10/20	Adjournment debate	HoC	<p>Fly-tipping: Penalties (a) Bristow, Paul (Peterborough) (Con)</p> <p>Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for granting me the opportunity to have this Adjournment debate. I am also grateful to the Minister for coming to the House to respond.</p> <p>Fly-tipping is an issue that blights too many of our communities. It happens in cities, in towns and in the countryside. Those dumping range from selfish individuals to criminal operators, but the effect is the same: the law abiding suffer, and on private land the law abiding are made to pay. Peterborough is a proud city. My constituency also takes in the fens around Eye, Thorney and Newborough, so I see fly-tipping in all its forms, and, quite frankly, I have had enough of it. The people of Paston, Bretton, Werrington, Ravensthorpe and Millfield have also had enough.</p> <p>At the 2019 election, I put tackling fly-tipping at the very top of my list of priorities. Some argued that this was a local council issue, but I make no apology for demanding action. I know that Peterborough City Council is working hard to tackle the problem, but we all need to do more to help, including the Government. I regularly report fly-tips as I walk around the streets of Peterborough, and on several occasions I have even rolled up my sleeves and cleared up the fly-tips myself... More here</p>

02/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Anaerobic Digestion - UIN 95128 <u>Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to improve cross-departmental working on the Government's anaerobic digestion and biomethane strategy.</p> <p><u>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne):</u> Anaerobic digestion and biomethane policy cuts across several government departments including the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Department for Transport. These departments are currently working closely together on a number of related policy issues, including the upcoming Green Gas Support Scheme, which is due to launch in Autumn 2021. The recent consultation on this scheme included proposals to allow an effective interaction between the Green Gas Support Scheme and the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation, and to ensure air quality impacts are properly mitigated. Another example is research, where BEIS is working with DfT to study the techno-economics and carbon intensity of gasifying biomass and municipal solid waste to produce either methane, hydrogen or liquid fuels. Here</p>
02/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Anaerobic Digestion - UIN 95129 <u>Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what steps he is taking to increase investment in research and development to improve the efficiency of the anaerobic digestion process and reduce the cost of building and running anaerobic digestion plants.</p> <p><u>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne):</u> In March, the Government announced a record increase in public investment in R&D – committing to reaching £22bn per year by 2024/25. At the same time the Government committed to more than double investment in the Energy Innovation Programme to £1 billion.</p> <p>Through its Networks in Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy programme, UKRI fund the Environmental Biology Network (EBNet) with £1.35m to</p>

			<p>provide a link between academic researchers and plant operators in industry. This includes mechanisms such as Proof of Concept studies and Business Interaction Vouchers which enable industry to address problems including the efficiency, design and operation of anaerobic digestion plants. Government also provides support to enable UK industry and researchers to access international science on biogas production from anaerobic digestion through the IEA Bioenergy Technical Coordinating Programme. Here</p>
02/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Anaerobic Digestion - UIN 95126 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what plans he has to promote the UK's anaerobic digestion sector at COP26.</p> <p>Kwasi Kwarteng (Spelthorne): Biomethane injection to the gas grid offers a low-regrets, cost-effective way of contributing to near term legally binding carbon budgets, and the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) states that biomethane will be valuable across all decarbonisation pathways. The new Green Gas Support Scheme, which will be launching in Autumn 2021, aims to increase the proportion of biomethane in the gas grid, which will deliver greener gas to households in the UK and contribute to carbon budgets 4 and 5. Here</p>
05/10/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Food: Waste Management - UIN 95132 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, how his Department plans to fund universal food waste collections; and what steps he is taking to ensure that those collections are effectively rolled out by 2023.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): This is a devolved matter and the information provided therefore relates to England only. Following support at consultation, we are legislating through the Environment Bill to introduce a statutory duty for waste collection authorities in England to arrange for at least weekly separate collection of food waste from households. Businesses and other organisations generating food waste will also be required to arrange for the separate</p>

			<p>collection of food waste. This must be collected for recycling or composting, including Anaerobic Digestion (AD). AD represents the best waste treatment method for unavoidable food waste due to the generation of biofuel and digestate and local authorities would be free to decide on the recycling route as a result of locally available infrastructure. We are preparing to consult on further details on this policy early in 2021.</p> <p>The Government has committed to covering the costs of any additional burdens that local authorities face as a result of new statutory duties requiring them to collect food waste separately for recycling. This is in keeping with the New Burdens Doctrine which requires new burdens on local authorities to be properly assessed and fully funded, so that there will be no increase in council tax as a result of the policy. Here</p>
05/10/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Food: Waste Management – UIN 95133 Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans he has to ensure that food waste is diverted to anaerobic digestion technologies; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): This is a devolved matter and the information provided therefore relates to England only. Following support at consultation, we are legislating through the Environment Bill to introduce a statutory duty for waste collection authorities in England to arrange for at least weekly separate collection of food waste from households. Businesses and other organisations generating food waste will also be required to arrange for the separate collection of food waste. This must be collected for recycling or composting, including Anaerobic Digestion (AD). AD represents the best waste treatment method for unavoidable food waste due to the generation of biofuel and digestate and local authorities would be free to decide on the recycling route as a result of locally available infrastructure. We are preparing to consult on further details on this policy early in 2021.</p>

			<p>The Government has committed to covering the costs of any additional burdens that local authorities face as a result of new statutory duties requiring them to collect food waste separately for recycling. This is in keeping with the New Burdens Doctrine which requires new burdens on local authorities to be properly assessed and fully funded, so that there will be no increase in council tax as a result of the policy. here</p>
08/10/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Plastics - UIN 99014 Patricia Gibson (North Ayrshire and Arran): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what progress his Department has made on reducing the use of plastics.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Our target is to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Environment Plan, and we have already made good progress. We have introduced one of the world's toughest bans on microbeads in rinse-off personal care products, reduced sales of single-use carrier bags by over 95% in the main retailers through the 5p charge, and, since 1 October this year, have banned the supply of plastic straws, cotton buds, and stirrers, with exemptions. And we will not stop there. Next year we will extend the carrier bag charge to all retailers and increase the minimum charge to 10p, consult again on the introduction of a deposit-return scheme for drinks containers, and, from 2022, will introduce a tax on plastic packaging containing less than 30% recycled content. Our landmark Environment Bill includes a number of measures that will enable us to further tackle plastic waste. These include measures to impose charges on single-use plastic items and make producers cover the costs of collecting and managing plastic packaging waste. here</p>
12/10/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Sanitary Protection: Plastics - UIN 98764 Luke Pollard (Plymouth, Sutton and Devonport): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether he plans to extend the single use plastic ban to include plastic in sanitary products.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Plastic has an important role to play in many</p>

			<p>products due to its strength and sterility. We must therefore think carefully about how we solve the problems arising from plastic waste in order to avoid unintended consequences. We regularly meet with producers, including of sanitary products, to discuss the sustainability of their products, and will continue to do so to innovate and find sustainable and practical solutions to the impact of sanitary products on the environment.</p> <p>We are seeking new powers in our landmark Environment Bill to drive the market towards more sustainable products, which for some products may be more appropriate than a ban. This includes powers to introduce ecodesign requirements and to require retailers to charge for single-use plastic items. These measures alongside others within the Bill, form a package of powers that will help incentivise and shift the market towards more reusable alternatives. here</p>
14/10/20	Oral answers	Defra	<p>Plastic Pollution – Volume 682 <u>Mark Pawsey (Con) (Rugby)</u> and <u>Damien Moore (Con) (Southport)</u>: What steps he is taking to reduce plastic pollution.</p> <p><u>Rebecca Pow (The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)</u>: We are committed to tackling plastic pollution. We introduced a microbeads ban and reduced single-use plastic carrier bag usage by 95% in main supermarkets. We are also increasing the single-use carrier bag charge to 10p and extending it to all retailers. We restricted the supply of plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds the other day, and we are seeking further powers in the Environment Bill to charge for single-use plastic items, making recycling more consistent, and we will be reforming packaging waste regulations.</p> <p>Mark Pawsey: It has been suggested that one way of reducing pollution is to make greater use of oxo-degradable plastic. This involves using an additive in conventional plastics that causes them to break down and fragment into microplastics that, in the marine environment, can be digested by organisms. In addition, oxo-degradable material in the waste stream is a</p>

			contaminant and causes a reduction in the levels of recycling. Will the Minister commit the Government to acting on the call from the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and join the EU in banning the use of oxo-degradable plastic? More here
20/10/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Plastics: Recycling - UIN 104111 Colleen Fletcher (Coventry North East): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what recent assessment he has made of the (a) adequacy and (b) effectiveness of systems for recycling plastics.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The UK continues to be a global leader in tackling plastic waste, and our ambition is to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste. Our landmark Resources and Waste Strategy sets out how we want to achieve this and move towards a more circular economy. Following support in our 2019 consultation on 'Consistency in household and business recycling collections in England,' we will introduce legislation through the Environment Bill that will require a core set of recyclable materials, including plastics, to be collected from households and businesses by all waste collectors in England.</p> <p>We will also introduce measures to encourage producers to use plastic packaging that can be recycled through reforms of Extended Producer Responsibility and the introduction of a deposit return scheme for drinks containers, including plastic bottles. We encourage the development of infrastructure for plastic reprocessing to ensure the UK meets its recycling targets as well as supporting the major waste reforms. The plastic packaging tax is expected to increase demand for secondary material plastic and increasing reprocessing infrastructure will help meet this demand. Reprocessing infrastructure enables the value of resource use to be maximised as well as waste arisings and its impact on the environment to be minimised. here</p>
20/10/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Fly-tipping - UIN 102197 Aaron Bell (Newcastle-under-Lyme): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is</p>

			<p>taking to tackle the illegal dumping of waste.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): The illegal dumping of waste, including fly-tipping, is an unacceptable blight on local communities and the environment. The government is committed to cracking down on the waste and carelessness that destroys our natural environment and kills marine life. We are also committed to increasing the penalties for fly-tipping. Over the last five years we have strengthened and expanded the powers available to tackle the illegal dumping of waste. Local authorities have the power to issue fixed penalty notices of up to £400 to those caught fly-tipping or to householders who pass their waste to a fly-tipper. Vehicles of those suspected of committing a waste crime, including illegal dumping, can be searched and seized.</p> <p>Those accused of illegal dumping can be prosecuted and, on conviction, can face a fine, up to 12 months imprisonment, or both in a Magistrates Court; or a fine, up to 5 years imprisonment, or both, in a Crown Court. Local authorities carried out a total of 2,397 prosecutions for fly-tipping offences in England in 2018/19, an increase of 7% on 2017/18. The value of total fines increased by 29% to £1,090,000 compared to 2017/18. We have invested £60 million in the Environment Agency's waste crime enforcement work since 2014. This year's Budget committed the government to investing £7.2 million in the development of electronic waste tracking, as well as £0.5 million in 2020/21 to support innovative approaches to tackling fly-tipping.</p> <p>In the Resources and Waste Strategy we committed to reforming the regulation of waste carriers, tightening up the regulation of the waste exemptions regime and improving intelligence sharing and joint working between enforcement agencies. The Joint Unit for Waste Crime, led by the Environment Agency and including the National Crime Agency, HMRC, the Police and others, was established earlier this year and has already had a number of operational</p>
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			<p>successes. The Environment Bill includes a number of measures to help tackle waste crime. It will enable Government to mandate the use of electronic waste tracking; simplify the process for enforcement authorities to enter premises under a warrant; introduce a new power to search for and seize evidence of waste crime; and reduce the cost and bureaucracy when the police seize vehicles involved in waste crime on behalf of the Environment Agency. Here</p>
22/10/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Clothing: Environment Protection - UIN 104012</p> <p>Gareth Thomas (Harrow West): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to tackle the environmental damage caused by fast fashion; and if he will make a statement. []</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): In line with the Resources and Waste Strategy for England (2018) we are taking a range of actions to tackle environmental damage and promote greater circularity in the fashion and textiles sector. Through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) we are supporting an industry-led voluntary agreement - the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) 2020. This has seen SCAP signatories reduce their water and carbon footprints by 18.1% and 13.4% respectively per tonne of clothing between 2012 and 2018. Work is currently underway to develop an ambitious new phase of the voluntary agreement for the future, focussed on enhancing the circularity of the sector.</p> <p>We have committed to consult on extended producer responsibility and other policy measures for five priority waste streams, including textiles, by 2025, with two of these to be completed by 2022. We are also exploring regulatory requirements on product design and consumer information in order to support durable, repairable, and recyclable clothing and textiles. The Environment Bill includes clauses that will enable resource efficient product design and information requirements to be set through secondary legislation. In addition, we are supporting the textiles reuse and recycling sector, which has experienced particular</p>

			<p>challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, through the WRAP - administered Resource Action Fund.</p> <p>Our detailed plans to promote sustainable practices in the textiles sector will be included in a new Waste Prevention Programme, to be published for comment in the next few months. Here</p>
22/10/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Clothing and Textiles - UIN 103416 Gareth Thomas (Harrow West): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps his Department is taking to encourage a more circular fashion and textile industry; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): In line with the Resources and Waste Strategy for England (2018) we are taking a range of actions to tackle environmental damage and promote greater circularity in the fashion and textiles sector. Through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) we are supporting an industry-led voluntary agreement - the Sustainable Clothing Action Plan (SCAP) 2020. This has seen SCAP signatories reduce their water and carbon footprints by 18.1% and 13.4% respectively per tonne of clothing between 2012 and 2018. Work is currently underway to develop an ambitious new phase of the voluntary agreement for the future, focussed on enhancing the circularity of the sector.</p> <p>We have committed to consult on extended producer responsibility and other policy measures for five priority waste streams, including textiles, by 2025, with two of these to be completed by 2022. We are also exploring regulatory requirements on product design and consumer information in order to support durable, repairable, and recyclable clothing and textiles. The Environment Bill includes clauses that will enable resource efficient product design and information requirements to be set through secondary legislation. In addition, we are supporting the textiles reuse and recycling sector, which has experienced particular challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, through the WRAP - administered Resource Action Fund.</p>

			Our detailed plans to promote sustainable practices in the textiles sector will be included in a new Waste Prevention Programme, to be published for comment in the next few months. here
22/10/20	Written questions	Defra	<p>Waste Disposal: Crime - UIN 103562 Alberto Costa (South Leicestershire): To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the potential merits of allowing local authorities to identify publicly people prosecuted for (a) fly-tipping and (b) hiring an unlicensed waste carrier.</p> <p>Rebecca Pow (Taunton Deane): Fly-tipping is unacceptable wherever it occurs, and we are committed to tackling this crime. The naming of fly-tipping offenders is not current Government policy. The Government is committed to encouraging local solutions for local problems. This is particularly relevant in tackling fly-tipping, which requires a local approach, tailored to the characteristics of the area and the community in which the problem occurs. It is therefore not for central government to assess or promote a single approach.</p> <p>In our Resources and Waste Strategy we committed to developing a web-based toolkit to tackle fly-tipping. This will include advice and guidance on how local authorities can set up and run effective fly-tipping partnerships and share intelligence. Through the establishment of effective partnerships, it will be possible for local partners to share intelligence and evidence of fly-tippers operating across administrative boundaries. Furthermore, the Police National Computer holds details of people who are, or were, of interest to UK law enforcement agencies following a conviction for a criminal offence, or are subject to legal proceedings, including for fly-tipping offences.</p> <p>We are also taking action to tackle waste crime, which includes fly-tipping, through the Environment Bill. It will enable the Government to mandate the use of electronic waste tracking; simplify the process for enforcement authorities to enter premises under a warrant; introduce</p>

			a new power to search for and seize evidence of waste crime ; and reduce the cost and bureaucracy when the police seize vehicles involved in waste crime on behalf of the Environment Agency. Here
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Industrial strategy & local industrial strategies

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates

Local government funding

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
06/10/20	Written question	HoL / MHCLG	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Public Consultation - UIN HL8404</p> <p>Lord Bassam Of Brighton: To ask Her Majesty's Government when they plan to hold a formal consultation on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; and whether any such consultation will include a framework for the Fund to ensure that it is accountable and transparent in its distribution principles.</p> <p>Lord Greenhalgh: The 2019 Conservative manifesto commits to creating the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, a programme of investment to bind together the whole of the United Kingdom, tackling inequality and deprivation in each of our four nations. The Government has been engaging with key stakeholders on the design and priorities of the fund since 2016, including holding a series of engagement events. Our engagement events have taken place across the UK including in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales.</p> <p>Over 500 stakeholders attended these events across a variety of sectors including; businesses, public bodies (such as Local Enterprise Partnerships, Mayoral Combined Authorities, local governments), higher education institutions, voluntary and charity sector and rural partnership groups. Final decisions on the allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be taken after a cross-government Spending Review. here</p>
14/10/20	Written answers	MHCLG	<p>Local Government Finance: Coronavirus - UIN 99597</p> <p>Bob Blackman (Harrow East): To ask the Secretary of State for Housing,</p>

			<p>Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the covid-19 outbreak on local authorities' finances.</p> <p><u>Luke Hall (Thornbury and Yate):</u> Councils across the country are supporting communities, protecting the most vulnerable and helping the NHS in our efforts to combat Covid-19. In order to meet these additional cost pressures, the Government has continued to support local authorities by delivering an unprecedented package of measures. So far, we have provided over £4.8 billion in funding for spending pressures, including £3.7 billion of un-ringfenced grants and £1.1 billion to help stop the spread of the virus in care homes. This underlines Government's commitment to ensuring adult social care has the resources it needs to keep residents and staff safe. In addition, the Prime Minister has announced a further £1 billion of funding for local authorities, details of which will be announced shortly. In total, over £28 billion has already been committed to local areas to support councils, businesses and communities across government. This comprehensive package of support includes direct financial support and cashflow measures for councils, bus and tram services, support for the homeless and both grants and rates reliefs for businesses. We will continue to monitor the impact of Covid-19 on local government. here</p>
26/10/20	Press release	MHCLG	First Town Deals worth almost £180 million announced here

Planning

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
06/10/20	Written question	MHCLG	<p>Planning: Birmingham Edgbaston - UIN 96149</p> <p><u>Preet Kaur Gill (Birmingham, Edgbaston):</u> To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the proposals in the Planning for the Future consultation, published 6 August 2020, on the (a) maintenance of green spaces and (b) conservation of biodiversity in Birmingham, Edgbaston constituency.</p>

			<p>Christopher Pincher (Tamworth): In Planning for the Future we have proposed significant changes to the focus and the processes of planning – to secure better outcomes in terms of land for homes, beauty and environmental quality. One key proposal is that future local plans would put all land into one of three categories: areas for growth, for renewal or for protection. That proposal makes clear that, under such a system, local authorities would use the plan-making process to earmark valued green space, which need not be a designated area such as Local Green Space or Green Belt, for protection.</p> <p>It is not feasible to try to predict how a particular local authority would apply the proposed rules, the detail of which will depend on the response to our current consultation. However, I can be clear that, in its plan-making and decisions, a local authority will still be expected to promote the provision and retention of green space and other green infrastructure, and to protect and enhance biodiversity in line with natural environment policies in the National Planning Policy Framework. Moreover, the Environment Bill gives local authorities a new power to require developers to provide net gains for biodiversity as a mandatory condition of planning permission. Here</p>
26/10/20	Written answer	HoL/Defra	<p>Countryside - UIN HL9032</p> <p>Lord Greaves: To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the speech by the Prime Minister on 6 October where he referenced the "new wild belts" that will "mark the landscape" by 2030, (1) how much of the area of (a) England, (b) Scotland, and (c) Wales they expect that the wild belts will cover; (2) what processes will be used to create them; (3) to what extent will they be in (a) urban areas, and (b) rural areas; and (4) what designations will the wild belts be allocated.</p> <p>Lord Goldsmith Of Richmond Park: The Prime Minister recently set out his vision for a greener and transformed Britain, with millions of trees, wilder landscapes for people to enjoy and a commitment to protect 30% of land for biodiversity by</p>

			<p>2030. We want to strengthen our existing network of protected areas and explore ways of driving up the biodiversity value of these areas. Implementation of domestic biodiversity is a devolved matter in the UK. In England the Government is introducing a range of new incentives to restore ecosystems and create wilder landscapes including the Nature for Climate Fund, Nature Recovery Fund and the recently launched Green Recovery Challenge Fund.</p> <p>Our Environment Bill will introduce Local Nature Recovery Strategies, which will provide a spatial planning tool for nature, allowing local government and communities to identify priorities and opportunities for nature recovery across our protected areas, green belts and wider farming landscape. Local authorities and public bodies more generally will be required to have regard to Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The term 'wild belt' has been used to refer generally to wilder areas around towns and cities but adopted most recently in campaigns by the Wildlife Trusts to set a new designation within a reformed planning system.</p> <p>Just as we want to see more and better access to nature around our towns and cities, the role of planning in further protecting any areas that are being restored should be considered alongside our ambitious planning reforms. The public consultation for the Planning for the Future white paper is due to close on 29 October. The Government will be carefully analysing all responses before publishing our response. Here</p>
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Transport – automated & electric vehicles

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
06/10/20	Debate summary	HoC	<p>Alternative Fuelled Vehicles: Energy Provision – Summary</p> <p>Matt Western (Lab, Warwick and Leamington) opened a Westminster Hall debate to consider energy provision and alternative-fuelled vehicles. More here</p>

Transport – Investment strategy

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
30/09/20	Press release	DfT	UK embraces hydrogen-fuelled future as transport hub and train announced. here
07/10/20	Written question	DfT	<p>To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the Government's £27 billion road building programme on (a) overall road traffic volumes and (b) congestion on unimproved roads linked to roads funded under that programme.</p> <p>Sarah Olney (Richmond Park): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the effect of the Government's £27 billion road building programme on (a) overall road traffic volumes and (b) congestion on unimproved roads linked to roads funded under that programme. [99070]</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): Through the second Road Investment Strategy, the Government is investing £27.4 billion in the operation, maintenance, renewal and enhancement of England's Strategic Road Network (SRN) between 2020 and 2025. This investment focuses on both making journeys safer and more reliable, and minimising the SRN's effects on adjacent local communities and environments. The impact of enhancements on future traffic flows in an area is considered on a scheme by scheme basis as options are assessed and developed, including through consultation with local highway authorities and other interested parties. World-leading traffic models that provide a consistent approach to traffic modelling of the SRN have been developed and used by Highways England to forecast how traffic flows and speeds change following infrastructure investment. They take account of the latest evidence on how increased road capacity impacts on traffic volumes and economic welfare (the concept of 'induced demand'). They include a representation of not just the SRN but also the local road network to model wider impacts, such as congestion.</p> <p>We continue to build on our evidence base to ensure that we have the most robust methodology possible for assessing</p>

			the induced effects of increasing road capacity. Here
13/10/20	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Airports: Non-domestic Rates - UIN 100924 Mr Virendra Sharma (Ealing, Southall): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of implementing business rate relief for airports in response to the reduction in passenger traffic.</p> <p>Jesse Norman (Hereford and South Herefordshire): The Government recognises the challenging times facing the aviation industry as a result of COVID-19, and firms experiencing difficulties as a result of COVID-19 can draw upon the unprecedented package of measures announced by the Chancellor, including schemes to raise capital and flexibilities with tax bills. Firms in the aviation sector will now also be able to take advantage of the targeted package of measures to support jobs and businesses through the winter months. The Government has also launched a new Global Travel Taskforce to work with industry to support the safe recovery of international travel. Here</p>
19/10/20	Speech	DfT	<p>"Beyond the crisis" – SoS speech to the aviation industry here</p>
19/10/20	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Airports: Non-domestic Rates - UIN 103466 Mr Virendra Sharma (Ealing, Southall): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the Answer of 13 October 2020 to Question 100924, if he will make an assessment of the potential merits of implementing business rate relief for airports.</p> <p>Jesse Norman (Hereford and South Herefordshire): The Government keeps all tax policy under review and is conducting a fundamental review of the business rates system in England. A Call for Evidence was published on 21 July and the Government is now considering responses. A range of measures to support all businesses, including airports, has been made available, including the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme to help firms keep people in employment, and the deferral of Value Added Tax (VAT) payments. The Government has also launched a new Global Travel Taskforce in order to support</p>

			the travel industry and the safe recovery of international travel. Here
22/10/20	Written question	HM Treasury	<p>Aviation and Travel: Coronavirus - UIN 103540 Rebecca Long Bailey (Salford and Eccles): To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what discussions he has held with the Secretary of State for Transport on introducing a bespoke package of financial support for businesses and employees operating in the aviation and travel industries in response to the covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Kemi Badenoch (Saffron Walden): The Chancellor speaks to his colleagues on a regular basis about a range of matters. The Government recognises the challenging times facing the aviation and travel industries as a result of COVID-19. Firms experiencing difficulties can draw upon the unprecedented package of measures announced by the Chancellor, including schemes to raise capital and flexibilities with tax bills and, where eligible, grant schemes and business rate holidays.</p> <p>Firms in the aviation and travel industries will also be able to take advantage of the targeted package of measures the Chancellor announced as part of the Winter Economy Plan to support jobs and businesses through the Winter months, including the new Job Support Scheme. The Government has also recently launched a new Global Travel Taskforce to support the travel industry and the safe recovery of international travel. The border quarantine measures in the UK are being kept under constant review, and where possible the Government has looked to open up travel corridors in order to facilitate increased travel. here</p>
22/10/20	Written question	BEIS	<p>Motor Vehicles: Hydrogen - UIN 103666 Alexander Stafford (Rother Valley): To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on ensuring that the roll-out of hydrogen vehicles keeps pace with the rapid growth in hydrogen fuel production.</p> <p>Nadhim Zahawi (Stratford-on-Avon): Low carbon hydrogen is one of a handful of critical options needed to deliver net</p>

			<p>zero, given its potential to help decarbonise heavy industry and flexible deployment across heat, power, and transport. We will be setting out our approach to growing the UK hydrogen economy early next year in the UK Hydrogen Strategy.</p> <p>The Department regularly engages with the Department for Transport on tackling climate change and delivering our net zero commitments. On 30 September, it was announced that Tees Valley will be the UK's first Hydrogen Transport Hub, bringing together industry, academia, and the Government to accelerate the UK's take-up of green hydrogen. This aligns with wider plans to drive forward transport innovation by funding 19 new hydrogen-powered refuse trucks in Glasgow and starting trials for Britain's first hydrogen-powered train. We are committed to exploring all options for low carbon hydrogen across freight, buses, trains, maritime, and aviation to ensure that the UK can lead the world in its deployment and use across the economy. Here</p>
22/10/20	Oral question	DfT	<p>Transport Sector: Support and Covid-19 Emergency Funding - UIN 907941 Volume 682</p> <p>Dave Doogan (SNP) (Angus) (and more): What (a) financial and (b) other support he plans to provide to the transport sector in the next six months.</p> <p>Grant Shapps (The Secretary of State for Transport): The Government continue to provide the support that is necessary to maintain public transport throughout this pandemic. It may be helpful to the House if I let Members know that the Department is expecting to spend between £10.6 billion and £12.6 billion on supporting the transport sector in response to this pandemic.</p> <p>Steven Bonnar [V]: If there is, as many predict, a disruptive end to the transition period, with long delays and blockages at the EU border and the inevitable financial costs this will bring to hauliers and traders, will the UK Government financially support and compensate these businesses and workers for the costs inflicted on them by this Tory</p>

			Government's failure to secure anything bearing any semblance of a deal with the European Union? More here
23/10/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Travel: Employment and Schools - UIN 104014</p> <p>Gareth Thomas (Harrow West): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps his Department is taking to promote active travel to (a) school and (b) work; and if he will make a statement.</p> <p>Chris Heaton-Harris (Daventry): On 28 July the Prime Minister launched ambitious plans to boost cycling and walking, with the aim that half of all journeys in towns and cities are cycled or walked by 2030. This included a £2 billion package of funding for active travel over the next 5 years, which is the largest ever boost for cycling and walking, and will deliver transformational change. The plan included a number of steps which will support active travel to school and work including the roll-out of segregated cycle lanes in towns and cities; cycle training for everyone who wants to undertake it, whether free or at a nominal charge; and increasing the number of school streets.</p> <p>The Department recently announced £2m to enable more children to cycle and walk to school. This will support the roll out of Doctor Bike clinics which will deliver cycle repair workshops in primary schools through Cycling UK's Big Bike Revival programme and further expansion of the Walk to School Outreach programme delivered by Living Streets. here</p>
27/10/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Roads: Repairs and Maintenance - UIN 105289</p> <p>Mr David Davis (Haltemprice and Howden): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, how many Highways England road improvement projects have had their pedestrian element cancelled as a result of an estimated economy saving in each of the last five years.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): Highways England includes provision for Non-Motorised Users, including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, as standard in all its scheme designs. The number of schemes that have had pedestrian elements removed can only be provided</p>

			at a disproportionate cost for this answer. Here
27/10/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Travel: Coronavirus - UIN 105405 Dr Lisa Cameron (East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what steps he is taking to provide covid-19 funding support for (a) light rail, (b) buses and (c) active travel.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): On 8 August, the Government announced funding at up to £27.3 million per week to support the bus sector, through the Coronavirus Bus Service Support Grant (CBSSG) Restart scheme, until a time when the funding is no longer needed. On 22 October, the Government also announced funding of up to £35.4 million for light rail services over the 12 weeks from 27 October, and a further indicative allocation of up to £32.4 million for the 11 weeks thereafter, subject to a Government review of funding requirements.</p> <p>This latest round of funding – key to ensuring these vital services can continue running safely– means total support during the pandemic for bus and tram services will reach at least £900 million. The Government has made a commitment, set out in the Prime Minister’s Cycling and Walking Plan launched in July, to invest an unprecedented £2 billion in active travel over the remainder of this Parliament. £250m of this is being made available in the current financial year. here</p>
27/10/20	Written question	DfT	<p>Buses: Alternative Fuels - UIN 106263 Daniel Kawczynski (Shrewsbury and Atcham): To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, when he plans to make available the funding announced under the Better Bus Deal for Bus Users to provide for alternatively fuelled vehicles.</p> <p>Rachel Maclean (Redditch): The Better Deal for Bus Users commitments from 2019 included a commitment to fund £50 million towards the UK’s first All-Electric Bus Town. We hope to announce the bid(s) progressing to the next stage of the All-Electric Bus Town competition soon. In addition to this, on 11 February 2020 the Prime Minister announced £5 billion of new funding to overhaul bus and cycle</p>

			links for regions outside London. This additional investment will include at least 4,000 new Zero-Emission Buses. The funding of which will be announced in due course after the Spending Review. Here
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Transport – Sub-national Transport Boards (STBs) – (eg TfN, TfSE)

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
30/09/20	Press release	TfN	Pioneering North proud of UK's first hydrogen transport hub here
01/10/20	Press release	TfL	Governance of the Crossrail programme transfers to TfL here
05/10/20	Press release	Midlands Connect	East Midlands leaders call for full delivery of HS2's Eastern Leg to bridge East – West divide here
05/10/20	Press release	TfN	Union Connectivity Review 'should focus on boosting North's prosperity' here
07/10/20	Press release	TfN	Plans to integrate Northern Powerhouse Rail and HS2 take step forward with latest consultation. Here

Brexit – BEIS, Defra, MHCLG, & committees

Date	Type	Organisation	Notes
			No updates