



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Lee Rowley MP

*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Local
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Our reference: 28503832

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Dear Paula,

Thank you for your letter of 20 June to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP about government support for industry efforts to tackle climate change. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

In 2019, the Government set a hugely ambitious target of trying to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 – an endeavour which is one of the most challenging that we have ever set in human history. We are trying, in just one generation, to turn around four hundred years of industrial activity in order to minimise our impact on the natural world. The United Kingdom has played a leading role already in both progressing significantly down the road of achieving this challenging target and encouraging others to do the same.

Already, we have reduced our emissions by over 40% compared to 1990 levels and the coming decades are going to be about incremental, continuous progress – the kind of hard work that goes on in the background to make progress that often doesn't make headlines but will be vital to achieving these long-term goals.

As I know you will be aware, and with specific regards to buildings, we are intending to make further progress via the Future Homes Standard. This should represent a considerable improvement in energy efficiency standards for new homes. Homes built under the Future Homes Standard will be future proofed with low carbon heating and high levels of energy efficiency.

As well as tackling these operational carbon emissions we must, of course, look at the embodied carbon emissions of construction. Government intends to consult in the coming months ahead on this policy area.

Thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

LEE ROWLEY MP