



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
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Our Ref: 431464
Your Ref:

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Paula McMohan
CEGChair@wes.org.uk

Dear Paula McMohan

The Women's Engineering Society Climate Emergency Group ask the UK Government to act with urgency

Thank you for your letter dated 20 June 2023, setting out recommendations on tackling climate change. I am responding on behalf of the Department for Transport regarding your request on ensuring future infrastructure projects are climate resilient and regulating whole life carbon.

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent as a result of climate change, with the case for adaptation growing more urgent with each passing year. Adapting to this changing climate is vital to strengthen our national security and resilience and to protect the economy from higher costs in the future.

The third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3) was published on 17 July 2023. It marks a step-change in the UK government's approach to climate adaptation. The government is taking action to ensure that public and private infrastructure operators can continue to deliver the essential services that underpin the economy and set the conditions for sustainable long-term growth in the face of increasingly severe climate impacts.

The Department for Transport has plans in place to adapt transport infrastructure and address the risks of climate change. The Department is developing a transport adaptation strategy for consultation, which we will seek to publish at the end of this year. It will set the ambition and mobilise the sector to ensure adaptation becomes part of business as usual. Our strategy will consider a range of issues and we encourage the Women's Engineering Society Climate Emergency Group to respond to our consultation once published later this year.

With regard to regulating Whole Life Carbon, the Department's newly established Infrastructure Decarbonisation Division is working with its Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) to improve the quality of its Whole Life Carbon data from new infrastructure projects.

Each of our ALBs have now been asked to undertake Whole Life Carbon Assessments for their investment projects. Alongside this, the ALBs have either gained, or are in the process of obtaining, PAS2080 accreditation. This will enable us to fully understand the carbon impacts of the Department's infrastructure portfolio and identify ways reduce these emissions, which contribute to global warming and its subsequent extreme weather events.

Yours sincerely

Taznema Khatun
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Department for Transport