



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
London  
SW1P 4DR

Our Ref: SO13718

5 March 2021

Dear Grant,

I am writing to you about the inclusion of international aviation and shipping (IAS) emissions in the sixth carbon budget. As you will be well aware, in previous carbon budgets because of the methodological difficulties in assessing the exact sector-wide contributions of both of these industries, the approach has instead been to lower the targets in other sectors in a 'headroom' approach. The time has come for this to change.

The Government has more ambitious targets now and must do more to meet them. Furthermore, in 2019 the aviation industry had record emissions. The Climate Change Committee agrees that the industries should be included. The headroom approach has failed to incentivise one of the most rapidly growing carbon markets to curb its use or look for sustainable alternatives.

Furthermore, since our rival hub airports in France and elsewhere are already bound by more stringent obligations under the EU-wide 'Nationally Determined Contribution' scheme, there is no reason why the British aviation industry would suffer under stricter regulation. Indeed, we stand some risk of losing out if regulation in Europe forces our rivals to adapt to new technology quicker than us – with a thriving domestic tech sector, we can afford sustainable regulation which encourages Britain to be at the forefront of emergent technologies.

I urge you to include emissions from international aviation and shipping in the UK's sixth carbon budget, all future carbon budgets and any subsequent net zero legislation.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Olney".

Sarah Olney MP  
Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Transport and Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

Cc: Kwasi Kwarteng, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy