



Department  
for Education

Lord Deben  
Committee on Climate Change  
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Department for  
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Our ref:

Your ref:

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*Dear Lord Deben,*

I am writing to follow up on our recent discussions on how we best deal with changes to the way we measure greenhouse gas emissions in relation to the Climate Change Act.

As you know, the UK has a world-leading record in tackling climate change. We are rightly proud of our performance against our carbon targets, having overperformed for the second time, leading us to cut our emissions faster than any G7 country. We have no intention of using this overperformance to meet Carbon Budget 3, which we are on track to exceed too.

I would be grateful if the Committee would advise on how technical changes to the baseline used to measure our emissions, as new information comes to light, should be handled. We want to avoid a paradoxical situation in which changes to the baseline, after we have given up the surplus created by this overachievement, could erroneously indicate that we were in non-compliance. Pending this advice, the Government will carry over a small proportion of the surplus (88 megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> – out of the surplus of 384 megatonnes – which is around 3% of Carbon Budget 2) whilst this work is completed. This will be released once it is clear that it will not be needed to address any technical changes in the baseline.

I look forward to receiving the Committee's advice on this issue.

*Yours ever,*  
*Chris*

**CHRIS SKIDMORE MP**