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BARONESS BLOOMFIELD OF HINTON WALDRIST
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24 May 2023

Dear Tony

Thank you for your recent letter enclosing a report on Renewable Liquid Fuels (RFLs), sent by email on 11 May, setting out your thoughts on the use of renewable liquid fuels, such as hydrotreated vegetable oil (HVO), in heating.

Decarbonising off grid properties is a key priority for us, and while we expect most off-grid properties will ultimately switch to heat pumps, as you note not all off grid households will be suitable for this technology. Decarbonising off grid properties will therefore require a range of technologies and approaches.

Like you I hope that RFLs will play a role in the future heating mix off the gas grid. I note with interest the encouraging data you have provided on how global HVO production has increased recently, along with the report from industry on the scope to further increase production to 2030.

We will consider this evidence carefully as part of our forthcoming Biomass Strategy, which will review the amount of sustainable biomass available to the UK and consider how this could be best used across the economy to achieve net zero and our wider environmental commitments.

Overall, as I set out during the Energy Bill, Report Day 2, on Monday 17 April, we consider sustainable biomass to be a limited resource and expect we will need to prioritise its use in sectors - such as transport, or off grid properties that are not suitable for heat pumps - that have fewest options to decarbonise through alternative low carbon technologies.

My officials will be happy to meet with you, and representatives of the heating oil industry, to discuss the above and the points you have raised in your letter and will be in touch to find a suitable date and time.

I hope you find this letter helpful. I will also send a copy to Lord Callanan, Andrew Bowie MP, those Peers who spoke to the amendment and place a copy in the House Library.

Olivia

BARONESS BLOOMFIELD OF HINTON WALDRIST

Lord Berkeley
House of Lords