



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Nigel Topping CMG
Chair, Climate Change Committee
10 South Colonnade
Canary Wharf
London
E14 4PU

28th August 2025

Dear Nigel,

Congratulations on your appointment as Chair of the Climate Change Committee (CCC).

I am writing to you regarding the cost assumptions that underpin the CCC's Carbon Budget 7, published earlier this year. Parliament will soon be asked to vote on Carbon Budget 7, which will set out legally enforceable emissions targets that will cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of pounds and will have wide reaching impact across the economy.

In the chapter relating to our electricity supply, the costings for Carbon Budget 7 assume that offshore wind will cost £38/MWh in 2030. This is less than half the £82/MWh price agreed in last year's auction, and less than a third of the price that Government said it was willing to pay this year, £117/MWh. As you know, these prices are for offshore wind that will come online in 2030 with fixed-price, inflation-linked contracts lasting for up to 20 years.

Your modelling is used by Ministers and Parliament to consider the cost of climate policies and make sure they can be balanced with other important priorities like the cost of energy, the cost of living, and the strength of our economy. The risk is that Ministers and parliamentarians use your inaccurate analysis to justify voting for climate policies which will damage the economy and increase bills.

I am deeply concerned that the costings you have published do not reflect the reality of the market, and that this risks misleading Parliament and the public about the true cost of decarbonising our electricity supply. Locking us into decades-long wind contracts at the highest prices in a decade will make electricity more expensive in the long term. There can be nothing more counterproductive for an agenda that wants the vast majority of the British public to adopt electric vehicles and home heating. Imposing strict electrification targets on the basis of inaccurate costings will only push up costs for consumers and require ever greater government intervention in the form of subsidies, bans, taxes and mandates.

More fundamentally, our taxpayer-funded institutions should be transparent about costs and their costings should reflect the best available evidence. There can be no justification for your 2030 offshore wind price, seeing as none of the offshore wind commissioned by 2030 will have ever been struck at that price.

Parliament must be able to make an informed choice about the path ahead – one that is best for our economy, living standards and environment. I would urge you to correct these costings before Parliament votes on Carbon Budget 7.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Claire Coutinho MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero