

Committee on Climate Change  
7 Holbein Place  
London SW1W 8NR

Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
Nobel House, 17 Smith Square  
London SW1P 3JR

23 January 2017

Dear Andrea,

**Publication of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017**

I am writing to congratulate you on the publication of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment government report last week. My committee was pleased to see the report endorse before Parliament the six most urgent risks as identified by my Adaptation Sub-Committee's evidence report of last summer.

Last week's publication marks the beginning of a new five-year cycle under the Climate Change Act in which the government is required to update its National Adaptation Programme. It is therefore timely that I hand on the role as the ASC's chair to my successor, the Baroness Brown of Cambridge.

The central question for the committee will now be whether the activity described in the NAP and elsewhere is commensurate with the scale of the risks identified in the CCRA. Our evidence report last summer took account of the policy initiatives already underway, including those mentioned in the government report last week. We concluded that despite these, more action was necessary in all but one of the six priority risk areas. In the sixth area my committee called for more research to identify what further action might be taken.

I wish you every success as you develop the 25 year environment plan this year, and update the National Adaptation Programme in 2018. Both will need to contain ambitious new policies and proposals if we are to manage, let alone reduce, the vulnerabilities identified in the CCRA. I hope that you will be able to meet Baroness Brown early in her term in order to discuss directly your priorities. I know that she would welcome a conversation, particularly as her first task is to present to Parliament an update on the ASC's existing analysis.

Yours ever,



**PROFESSOR LORD KREBS Kt FRS**  
**Chair, Adaptation Sub-Committee**