

Aileen McLeod, MSP
Minister for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

5 December 2014

Dear Aileen,

Inclusion of Nitrogen Trifluoride in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 targeted gases

In his letter of 7 October, Paul Wheelhouse requested our advice on including the fluorinated greenhouse gas Nitrogen Trifluoride (NF₃) in the list of targeted greenhouse gases under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, and the inclusion of a base year for NF₃ in the Act.

The internationally agreed climate objective to hold the increase in global average temperature below 2°C above preindustrial levels requires limiting emissions of all greenhouse gases. The IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) estimates that NF₃ has a 100 year global warming potential of 17,200, and NF₃ is in the list of Kyoto greenhouse gases for the second Kyoto commitment period, beginning 1 January 2013. It is appropriate, therefore, that Scotland's contribution to meeting the global climate objective should include limiting domestic NF₃ emissions.

Current base years under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 are 1990 for carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, and 1995 for fluorinated greenhouse gases (hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulphur hexafluoride). The UNFCCC allows countries to select a base year of either 1995 or 2000 for NF₃ in the second Kyoto commitment period. A base year of 1995 is therefore consistent with other gases covered by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act and the UNFCCC's requirements for the second Kyoto commitment period.

Therefore, our assessment is:

- Nitrogen Trifluoride should be included in the list of targeted greenhouse gases under the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009
- 1995 is an appropriate base year for NF_3 .

Scotland's emissions of NF_3 are small. Even at UK level, emissions of NF_3 are currently less than 1 ktCO_2e per year, with no significant rises expected to 2050. Therefore, inclusion of NF_3 in Scotland's accounting will not require any changes to the legislated emissions reduction targets.

Yours,



Lord Deben, Chairman, Committee on Climate Change