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Dear REDACTED,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 September, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED , about climate science and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The Inter-Academy review of the IPCC was mainly concerned with matters of IPCC governance and internal procedures. Despite recent perceived controversies surrounding the IPCC assessment process and the leaked 'Climategate' e-mails, the view of the vast

majority of climate scientists is that the key conclusions of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report concerning potentially dangerous anthropogenic interference with the Earth's climate remain valid. The UK Government agrees with this view.

Mr Booker's view, as expressed in the Sunday Telegraph article sent by your constituent, that the IPCC is "essentially a political pressure group" advocating anthropogenic climate change is not one that is recognised by most climate scientists. Even before the establishment of the IPCC in 1988 there were sound scientific reasons (based on physics known for nearly a century) for suspecting a human influence on the climate, though the extent of this influence was not then known.

The IPCC is a scientific body that was set up to review and assess objectively the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information published worldwide relevant to the understanding of climate change. The panel has pulled together information from diverse sources of evidence to conclude that human emissions of greenhouse gases are very likely responsible for most of the global warming observed over the past few decades. Importantly, the panel also assesses evidence of how we can expect this warming to influence our climate and lives – and how we can act now to avoid the worst impacts.

As to the economic impacts of action to mitigate climate change, it has been shown¹ that the cost to the global economy would amount to a manageable 1 to 2% of global GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 2050, provided the necessary urgent action is taken.

According to the Stern Review, delaying action will likely increase the economic cost, and the consequences to the global economy of not taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the coming decades could be very severe.

Finally, I would like to emphasise the importance of the move to a low-carbon economy as a real opportunity to drive forward innovation, job creation and competitiveness. Importantly, a shift to low carbon, apart from reducing the risk of substantial climate change, can reduce our dependency on finite fossil fuels, taking us towards a cleaner, quieter, more energy secure and fairer society.

Yours ever,

¹ Lord Stern, 2006, 'The Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change', Cambridge University Press.

