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Our ref: MC2011/02610/REDACTED

February 2011

Thank you for your letter dated 7 February, enclosing correspondence from your constituent, concerning the findings of the recent House of Commons Science & Technology Select Committee (STSC) review of the Lord Oxburgh and Sir Muir Russell inquiries into the “Climategate” affair.

Graham Stringer proposed a number of amendments to paragraph 98 of the draft report of the STSC review of the two “Climategate” inquiries which were subsequently rejected by a majority of committee members, as indicated on page 39 of the final published report. Conclusions reached by committee investigations of this nature are generally the result of a

consensus agreed among the committee members and therefore do not necessarily incorporate every individual opinion that may be held by an individual member.

Paragraph

98 in the published report, while not questioning the integrity of the science of man-made climate change, clearly indicated that the STSC had some reservations about the operational manner of the University of East Anglia. However, the STSC took the view that both the Oxburgh and Muir Russell inquiries set out clear and sensible recommendations and that “it is time to make the changes and improvements recommended, and with greater openness and transparency move on”.

In closing, I would point out to your constituent that the vast majority of climate scientists active in climate science research agree that climate change is happening and that warming over recent decades is mostly a result of human activities. They also agree that climate change is potentially a major threat to future global security, prosperity and equity which will require action to manage those threats. The Government is therefore acting now.

CHRIS HUHNE