

Sir Nicholas Stern
Second Permanent Secretary
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

RE: Investigation into the damage global warming will do to Britain

The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) would like to inform you of our interest in the investigation you are leading into the damage that global warming will do to Britain and the world, and the cost of bringing it under control. UKCIP was established in 1997 by the UK Government to help UK organisations assess how climate change might affect them and how they might adapt to the unavoidable impacts. We feel that we have a large amount of information that will be relevant to this investigation.

The role of UKCIP is to help organisations assess how they might be affected by climate change, so they can prepare for its impacts and adapt to climate risks. We co-ordinate and integrate stakeholder-led assessments of climate change impacts at a regional and national level, and provide tools (such as the UKCIP02 climate change scenarios; a risk uncertainty and decision making framework; and a costings methodology) and guidance throughout the process for both stakeholders and the researchers. Within the UKCIP framework, regional scoping studies on climate change impacts have been undertaken for all parts of the UK, and regional climate change partnerships have been established. Sectoral studies focused on a number of areas of activity have also been undertaken. Further information on the UKCIP tools and studies is available from our website (www.ukcip.org.uk).

The findings of all UKCIP climate impacts studies have recently been drawn together in the report "Measuring Progress: Preparing for climate change through the UK Climate Impacts Programme", a copy of which is enclosed with this letter. This report provides a valuable summary of how climate change will affect the UK from the view of stakeholders and identifies what actions are being or should be taken to adapt to climate risks.

A number of adaptation case studies exist and there is a Defra funded project underway which is estimating the costs and benefits of the hot summer of 2003 for the UK and EU, across a number of sectors, and providing estimates of the future costs of climate impacts and adaptation in the UK for a range of sectors, under various climate change and socio-economic scenarios. We can pass these findings to you should they be of interest.

UKCIP would be very pleased to assist with the UK climate change impacts and adaptation aspects of your inquiry, for example, by briefing your team on these. I do hope these comments are helpful. We look forward to hearing from you, and to providing you with further details on the above in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Chris West
Director, UK Climate Impacts Programme

cc. Andy Deacon and Lisa Horricks; Defra, Global Atmosphere Division

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