

Dear Stern Review,

I have just learned about the Stern review from a colleague.

I am working as an economist on a Defra/Environment Agency/NWDA funded study on "Climate Change and the Visitor Economy in England's Northwest".

The project is led by Professor John Handley. The project is advised by UKCIP. Although it based on north west experience, it has clear implications nationally and worldwide.

The project is now nearing completion and the first working papers are already becoming available. A colleague - Dr Albertson - and I have been using econometric techniques (time series analysis, probit analysis) to analyse various case studies, including the risk of wildfires and the impact of weather and climate on visitor demand. We are about to start a cost-benefit analysis of upland footpath erosion and repair in the Lake District in the light of climate change.

I should stress the project is truly interdisciplinary (for example the work on fires is with a geographer and a meteorologist) and is really applied statistics as much as economics. But it is not possible to confine a subject such as climate change within disciplinary boundaries which is - I guess - an issue for your terms of reference.

All of this work seems relevant to your review. How would you like evidence to be submitted? Are you happy to have working papers or draft academic papers which are about to be submitted to leading journals in the field?

I am away on research until next Friday, but we are very keen to learn more and we are under an obligation to use our publicly funded work to promote policy change. You are therefore an appropriate forum. Could you tell us more about the type of advice and material you are expecting? We are happy to send abstracts in the first instance to help you.

Finally we are just about to start an £800,000 EPSRC funded project on climate change and industry, managed through the University of Bath, but it is very early days and so the insights from that will arrive too late for your review, although the work on capital stock is central to the theme of your review.

Yours,

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