Climate Change Bill
Update following final Parliamentary stages

The Climate Change Bill has now completed its passage through Parliament. On 17th November the House of Lords considered all the amendments made in the Commons, and on the following day the Commons considered (and agreed) a few further amendments made in the Lords.

The Lords endorsed its first group of amendments, which included the move to an 80% greenhouse gas reduction target for 2050, by a margin of 190:16. Neither House divided on any other issues.

The final set of Government amendments proposed in the Lords and agreed by the Commons covered the following issues:

1. Domestic effort

A new clause which will require the Government to set a limit on the use of overseas credits for each budgetary period, taking into account advice from the Committee on Climate Change.

2. International aviation and shipping

The Government redrafted the amendment, accepted in the Commons at Report stage, which will require that projected emissions from international aviation and international shipping be taken into account in decisions relating to carbon budgets by both Government and the Committee on Climate Change.

3. Single-use carrier bags

A minor change, responding to advice from the House of Lords Delegated Powers Committee, making a further element of the carrier bags provisions subject to the affirmative (rather than negative) resolution parliamentary procedure.

4. Government civil estate

The Government redrafted the amendment, accepted in the Commons at Report stage, requiring it to produce an annual report on the efficiency and sustainability of the civil estate.

Next steps

We expect Royal Assent before the end of November, so this is our final email update! Many thanks to all those who have provided views, help and support during the progress of the Bill, which has undoubtedly become stronger and more robust in the course of its parliamentary passage. We are now on the point of enacting a highly ambitious and ground-breaking Climate Change Act of which we can be justly proud.

Climate Change Bill Team
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