

Dear xxx,

I wanted to get back in touch with an update on our previous letters and emails about climate change and protecting the environment, because there's been an important – and pretty positive – new development. A cross-party group of MPs (including me) and manufacturing businesses have got together to produce a set of recommendations on how we can reach Net Zero more cheaply, with lower taxes and a more competitive economy, than many recent headlines are suggesting.

The recommendations are in a report *Fixing the Carbon Leak* which I've put on my website at: www.johnpenrose.org/wp/Carbon-Competitiveness.pdf and, in summary, they mean there shouldn't be an 'either / or' choice between decarbonising our economy or cheaper fuel and energy bills. We can and should have both.

The key proposal is for the UK to introduce a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) so the price of the carbon which is embedded in every washing machine, car or aluminium can we import is the same as what UK manufacturing firms already have to pay. That levels the playing field so British manufacturing can compete fairly against subsidised foreign competitors for the first time in decades, and helps Net Zero because low-carbon products will be cheaper than high-carbon dirty ones too.

It would make UK manufacturers into stronger exporters as well. Clean, green, low-carbon British-made goods would leave the UK with a zero carbon price attached to them, making them as competitive as possible in every foreign market they're sold in.

Last but not least, any extra money the CBAM brings in would be ploughed back into cutting green levies or fuel duty instead. That means lower energy bills or pump prices for everyone, straight away.

So it could be an attractive, lower-cost way to achieve Net Zero without hitting hard-pressed families with price hikes at a time when money is tight, or damaging British businesses, jobs and investment either.

But we are a democracy, so it will only work if lots of people (like you or me) support a new approach. That's why I'm writing to you, to get your views on this and other approaches to this crucially-important issue. So please take a few minutes to fill in the attached questionnaire by clicking on the button below. It will only take a few moments, and it will make sure your views about this vital part of Weston and our planet's future get heard. Alternatively, at the bottom of this e-mail I've pasted the questionnaire so that you can press 'reply' then simply edit the text and delete the pre-filled responses based on your views before sending it back to me. And, as always, please feel free to contact me by email John@JohnPenrose.org if there's anything else I can help you with.

Yours sincerely,

1. How important do you feel it is for the UK to tackle climate change and improve the environment?

Delete as needed:

Very important – the planet will be uninhabitable if we don't

Neutral – I care about it, but other things matter to me too

Not very important – the problems are being overstated

2. How much should energy & fuel prices rise to improve the environment and get to net zero?

Delete as needed:

As far as they need to – the future of the planet is more important than the economy

No higher than today – bills are expensive already, so any improvements need to be affordable within current family budgets

Lower than today – families are struggling, so we need to find cheaper ways to save the planet

3. How do you feel about not being allowed to install a gas boiler in your home or to buy a conventional (rather than electric) car, in a few years time?

Delete as needed:

Absolutely fine

Happy in principle, but only once things like heat pumps and electric cars are no more expensive than conventional products today

Annoyed; people should be allowed to make their own choices

4. Net zero will still mean the UK uses some fossil fuels in future. Should we import them from abroad, or produce them at home?

Please give details:

It's a big polluter and needs to be cut back

It should be decarbonised rather than banned – travel broadens the mind & is important for business too

I'm happy as things are – flights are a tiny percent of our emissions & the problem is overstated

5. Net zero will still mean the UK uses some fossil fuels in future. Should we import them from abroad, or produce them at home?

Please give details:

It's a big polluter and needs to be cut back

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I'm happy as things are – flights are a tiny percent of our emissions & the problem is overstated

6. Are you interested in new ways to tackle climate change and improve the environment more cheaply? **Delete as needed:**

Yes please - keep me signed up and informed!

No thanks - I'm happy as things are.

All done! Please send the e-mail as a reply to let me know your views.

Dear xxx,

You may remember that I sent you a survey to get your views about climate change and protecting the environment last week, because we'd corresponded about this in the past. Some people have replied already and I thought you might be interested in what other local people have said so far. The emerging conclusions are:

- A big majority (over 70%) think tackling climate change is very important, and even more (over 80%) care about it to some degree alongside other issues too.
- Well over $\frac{3}{4}$ of us are OK about not being able to install a gas boiler or buy a conventional (rather than electric) car in a few years time, but more than half of those are only willing to do it once things like heat pumps and electric vehicles are no more expensive than conventional products today.
- About half of us think we should produce as much as possible of any remaining fossil fuels at home rather than importing them from abroad, and another quarter think we should have a mix of domestic and foreign imports, to minimise bills. Only a quarter of us want to shut down all UK fossil fuels and rely on imports completely.
- Almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of us want to carry on flying abroad, although $\frac{2}{3}$ of those think air travel needs to be decarbonised like cars and buses too.

These are still early results, but it's clear local people feel we shouldn't have to make an 'either / or' choice between decarbonising our economy and cheaper fuel and energy bills, or to hurt UK jobs, exports and investment on our way to achieving Net Zero either: we can and should have both. If you'd like to make sure your voice is heard, the survey is at <https://forms.gle/4Dr6DHZhgQkcJTO6A> and, once all the responses are in, I'm going to make these points strongly in Westminster on your behalf. If you can spare a couple of minutes to fill out the survey it would help enormously: the more voices we get, the more powerful the message we can send.

Yours sincerely,