



# Science and Technology Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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From Rt Hon Norman Lamb MP, Chair

Bob Ward  
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London WC2A 2AE

10 October 2017

Dear Bob Ward,

## Climate change

I am writing in response to your letter of 21 September to Graham Stringer, which you copied to me.

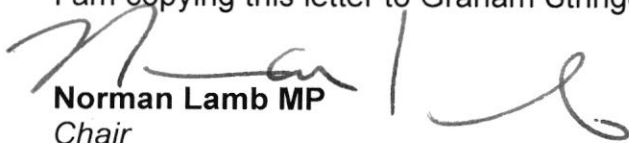
You addressed his article in the *Daily Mail* on climate change, which followed the recent academic report from Richard Millar and colleagues published in *Nature Geoscience*.

There are, in my view, two important points to highlight from the *Nature Geoscience* paper. First, as you stated yourself, while emissions and warming in the years to 2015 lie below the mean projections of the 'CMIP5' ensemble of models they still lie within the main range of the models' projections. I do not personally see, on the basis of this most recently published research, any grounds for doubting the significance of the climate challenge we face. Second, the 'discrepancy' the academics have identified in the gap between actual recent warming and the mean CMIP5 projections provides a greater opportunity for countries to meet their Paris Agreement emission-reduction pledges in order to avoid warming exceeding 1.5°C. That is the positive conclusion I take from their work.

In your letter you say that Graham Stringer's article "risks undermining confidence in the select committee". I think you are wrong. Individual members of the Science and Technology Committee are entitled to their personal perspectives and views, on climate change and on any other issue. The conclusions — and credibility — of the Committee are expressed through its scrutiny reports. A previous S&T Committee was able to report on climate change issues in 2011 (in its report on the *University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit's Emails*), and after Mr Stringer had tabled drafting amendments which were not accepted by the rest of the Committee (as the Formal Minutes published in that report set out), without 'undermining confidence' in that Committee.

The task of the Committee, and for me as its Chair, is to ensure that in every inquiry we undertake we follow the evidence, and that is what we as a Committee will do.

I am copying this letter to Graham Stringer.

  
Norman Lamb MP  
Chair