

Suella Braverman QC MP
House of Commons
London
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11 July 2022

Dear Ms Braverman,

I was interested to read your article, which was published on the website of the 'Daily Express' newspaper on Friday 8 July, laying out some of your priorities if you become Prime Minister.

The first paragraph of your article states: "The Conservative Party needs to unite around a candidate who can deliver what we set out to in the 2019 manifesto that sent me and so many of my colleagues to Westminster."

However, I was very surprised to find that elsewhere your article states: "In order to deal with the energy crisis we need to suspend the all-consuming desire to achieve net zero by 2050. If we keep it up, especially before businesses and families can adjust, our economy will end up with net zero growth. We don't want to end up like the Germans, going cap in hand to Putin for heating and power."

As you know, particularly as Attorney General, the Climate Change Act requires the United Kingdom to reduce its territorial emissions to net zero by 2050. This net zero target was passed by MPs, including you, in 2019. Are you suggesting that as Prime Minister you would ignore this statutory target?

The 2019 Conservative Manifesto on which you campaigned during the General Election in 2019 states on page 2 that Boris Johnson would guarantee "reaching Net Zero by 2050 with investment in clean energy solutions and green infrastructure to reduce carbon emissions and pollution". It further states on page 55: "We will lead the global fight against climate change by delivering on our world-leading target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as advised by the independent Committee on Climate Change." Why are you not committed to delivering this part of the 2019 Manifesto?

In addition, your article gives the entirely false impression that delivering on the net zero target would hinder efforts to tackle the current energy crisis. As you know, the enormous rise in energy bills is due to the surging wholesale price of natural gas and oil. If the UK had moved more quickly in the past to improve energy efficiency of homes and businesses and to substitute clean energy for imports of fossil fuels, the current crisis would not be as acute in the UK as it is today.

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Furthermore, the target of reaching net zero emissions by 2050 is in line with the UK's responsibilities and self-interest in stopping man-made climate change. The UK is paying a rising price for climate change impacts, such as more intense and frequent heatwaves, heavier rainfall and rising sea levels, which are damaging and destroying lives and livelihoods. Why do you think it is acceptable to slow down efforts to avoid such consequences?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.E.J. Ward". The letters are cursive and connected, with a large initial 'R' and 'W'.

Bob Ward
Policy and Communications Director

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