

## FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION RELATED TO THE 25 JANUARY, 2011 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE MEETING

You had asked for supplementary written information on three issues following this meeting and confirmed by phone that an email from me to your office would be the correct route of response.

### **1. Climate Change Behaviours Research Programme**

This refers to a programme of behaviour change research, largely being undertaken by Scottish Government analysts. A link to this work programme is attached here for information.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/environment/social-research/Behaviour-Change-Research/Behaviour-Change-Strategy>

The Minister also made reference to an International Review of Behaviour Change Initiatives, commissioned from the University of Manchester, which is an early output from the Climate Change Behaviours Research Programme. This research looks at key initiatives that have been developed in other countries to reduce carbon emissions and considers whether and why they've been successful. The document is available now on the Scottish Government website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/02/01104638/0>

### **2. Scottish environmental attitudes and behaviour**

The extract contains references to two separate research items, so I respond here by giving information on both.

The comments made by the Minister refer to the Scottish environmental attitudes and behaviours survey 2008, published by the Scottish Government. The survey (in various formats) can be accessed on the Scottish Government website at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/environment/social-research/Environmental-Attitudes>

In the extract, where the Convenor refers to 'further data being published in February', the reference relates to comments made earlier in column 3653 by my colleague Paul Tyrer. The Official Report records him as saying 'we will publish an interim report from the climate change behaviours research programme in late February'. That report has yet to be published, but Paul will ensure you are alerted to the document when it is available.

### **3. Headline messages**

This refers to action 3 in the public engagement strategy delivery plan. That action confirms that ‘ in collaboration with the UK Climate Impacts Programme and SCCIP, the Scottish Government will produce a set of headline messages on projected changes to our climate and the impacts of those changes.’

In the related extract at col 3666 the Convenor asks for information on the process for developing those messages and how that meshes with the Government’s adaptation strategy. The response to this question is:

The Scottish Government co-funded the development of the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09). These projections show the changes that can be expected during the rest of this century. However, the information contained in UKCP09 is complex and relatively inaccessible to a non-specialist audience, including decision makers in public and private enterprises.

A paper on UKCP09 and, in particular, the issue of effectively communicating the most important messages about likely impacts to decision makers, was presented to and discussed by Ministers at the British Irish Council (BIC) meeting in July 2010.

Following Ministers’ discussions at that meeting, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Climate Change Impacts Partnership (SCCIP) have been working with the UK Climate Impacts Partnership to develop a set of headline messages on climate impacts which appear to be of most importance to Scotland. The first stage of this work has involved agreeing a methodology to develop the messages and to present a ‘pilot’ message to Ministers at the upcoming BIC meeting later this month (25 February).

Following that meeting, the Scottish Government will continue work with the SCCIP and UK Climate Impacts Partnership to refine the pilot message and develop a set of messages which can be accessed and used by the decision makers.

On the question of how this relates to the Government’s adaptation strategy, the work to develop these headline messages supports the aims of the Scottish Government’s Climate Change Adaptation Framework, which was published in December 2009. The overarching aim of the framework is to “increase the resilience of Scotland’s communities, and the natural and economic systems on which they depend, to the impacts of climate change”. Raising awareness and clear communication of projected changes in climate and the likely impacts will be vital to achieving this.

I trust that the above information suffices, but please do not hesitate to get back to me if you require anything more.