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From the Secretary of State
The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
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23rd July 2007

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARLIAMENT ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE UK

I am writing to inform you of my intention to lay before Parliament and publish – on 26 July – a report on levels of, and Government action to reduce, greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. This is in compliance with the requirements of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 and our commitment in the 2006 Climate Change Programme. This report does not contain any policy announcements and has been drafted in close cooperation with officials across Government for which we are very grateful. We will also make the report publicly available on the Defra website.

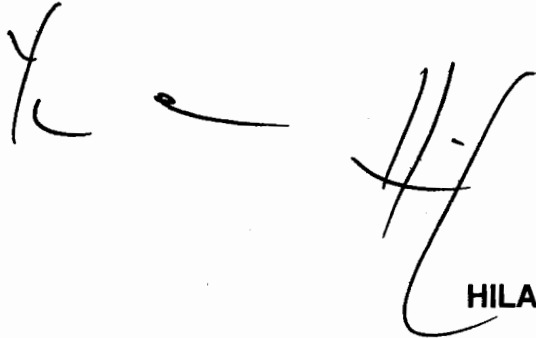
Under the terms of section 2 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006, the Government is required to report on: (a) steps taken during the previous calendar year to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases; and (b) the level of emissions of greenhouse gases in the United Kingdom during the previous calendar year, including any increase or decrease in that level recorded that year. In the Climate Change Programme published last year, we committed to introducing a new annual report to Parliament along lines similar to the Act but also setting out an indicative work plan for the following year. This report is aimed at fulfilling both requirements.

In drafting the report, attached at **Annex A**, our approach has been to ensure that the document is fairly short but informative – with annexes setting out more of the details. We have also made it consistent with the Energy White Paper, which is why it is being published now rather than earlier in the year, and included the latest provisional emissions data for 2006 and the emissions projections published alongside the White Paper.

Main highlights from the report are:

- the emissions projections, which were published alongside the Energy White Paper, indicate that UK carbon dioxide emissions will be about 16 per cent and 20–26 per cent lower than 1990 levels by 2010 and 2020, respectively. This projected fall would **not be enough to achieve the domestic goal** to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010;
- UK greenhouse gas emissions have been on a downward trend since 1990, with final estimates of emissions in 2005 being approximately 15 per cent lower than 1990 levels;
- provisional estimates for 2006 show that carbon dioxide emissions are about 1¼ per cent higher than 2005 levels, and 5¼ per cent lower than 1990 levels (both 2005 & 2006 estimates do not take account of the results of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme);
- taking the EU ETS results into account, UK greenhouse gas emissions in 2005 were 19.1 per cent below base year levels and carbon dioxide emissions in 2006 were about 11 per cent below 1990 levels; and,

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of the Cabinet and Sir Gus O'Donnell. I am also writing separately in similar terms to the Devolved Administrations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' and 'B' with a horizontal line through the middle, and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

HILARY BENN