



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

202026 June

Dear Constituent,

**Re: Green and Fair Recovery**

Thank you for contacting me about a green and fair recovery to the Covid-19 outbreak.

During the election I promised to use the opportunity presented by leaving the EU to deliver a 'green Brexit'. And now more than ever, with the outbreak of Covid-19 and the impact this is having on our local economy, I remain committed to doing just that. Not only seeking to maintain our environmental standards but enhancing them.

These have been very difficult times for the country and while it is paramount to protect jobs and the economy, we can also ensure as we rebuild our economy, we do so in a way which is sustainable for the future. That's what I want to see – protecting jobs for the long-term and creating opportunities for people across Burnley and Padiham to put their engineering prowess into new technologies and innovations.

With this in mind you may be pleased to hear that in June of this year the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced a Green Recovery working group, one of five new 'recovery roundtables' bringing together businesses, business representative groups and leading academics, to unleash Britain's growth potential and help the economy recover from the pandemic. This group will explore how to capture the economic growth opportunities from the shift to net zero emissions and I will be working with colleagues on how this works for us locally. Of most significance for Burnley and Padiham is the additional funding that is going into JetZero, given our aerospace capabilities, and Small Modular Reactors which have the potential to transform our energy mix.

We can't just look months and years ahead though; we also must grasp the here and now. Work on achieving a greener economy is already underway with a huge £3 billion green investment package announced by the Chancellor in his Summer Statement. £2 billion of this is committed to paying for improvements to homes to make them more energy efficient, including loft, wall and floor insulation.

This will allow homeowners and landlords in Burnley to apply for a voucher from the Green Homes Grant scheme that could save hundreds of pounds a year on energy bills, whilst also creating thousands of jobs for those who fit the improvements. Collectively this will also have a big impact on our energy needs and supports us in our ambition to hit net zero by 2050.

The UK has played a world-leading role in tackling climate change and the transition to Clean Growth. We were the first country to legislate to eliminate our contribution to climate change by 2050, and the fastest in the G20 to cut emissions. Since 1990, we have cut emissions by more than 40 per cent whilst growing the economy by more than two thirds and I'm committed to building on this achievement. Our world leading expertise in offshore wind also shows how as a nation we can do our part in tackling climate change and the Prime Minister's announcement of major investment in Hydrogen technology shows how we will explore every opportunity with ambition.

At the same time, the Environment Bill is being introduced to protect and improve the environment for future generations, enshrining in law environmental principles and legally-binding targets. You may be interested to hear that the first progress report of the Government's ambitious 25 Year Environment Plan found that 90 per cent of the priority actions have been delivered or are on track for delivery.

Finally I have spoken with colleagues at HM Treasury about your suggestions for the Comprehensive Spending Review taking place this year. The Integrated Review and Comprehensive Spending Review will conclude in the autumn and although I am regrettably not able to pre-empt their conclusions, I am assured by my colleagues that they are aware of the policy suggestions you raised.

I hope this reassures you of my commitment to protect, preserve and improve the environment and I thank you for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Higginbotham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Antony Higginbotham MP**  
Member of Parliament for Burnley