

Environmental Audit Committee

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Mr Steen Gade,
Chair, The Climate, Energy and Building Committee,
Folketinget, Denmark

11 February 2013

Dear Mr Gade,

Protecting the Arctic

The Environmental Audit Committee, which I Chair, considers the extent to which the policies and programmes of UK Government departments contribute to environmental protection and sustainable development, and it audits their performance against sustainable development and environmental protection targets.

In light of the rapid developments in the Arctic over the past year, my Committee scrutinised the UK Government's policies on the Arctic. We produced our report last year and have recently received the UK Government's response to it.

We highlighted how climate change is opening up the Arctic and the risks of development in the region for the environment. We called for greater controls on oil and gas exploration and shipping, and the designation of an environmental sanctuary, and for the UK Government to use its influence in the Arctic Council to bring these about. Changes in the Arctic will affect us all and we will all need to work together to ensure that development in the Arctic is genuinely sustainable.

Please find below links to those reports, which I hope will be of interest. Please do get in contact if you would like to discuss the report, or if you have any suggestions for how we can work together on this agenda.



Joan Walley MP
Chair

The Committee's report can be found here:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmenvaud/171/171.pdf>

The UK Government's response to that report can be found here:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmenvaud/858/858.pdf>

