

Dear Mr Dey,

Public bodies progress in meeting climate change duties

Thank you for your letter of 11 July 2017. Firstly, please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to your letter and missing your requested response date.

I have provided a response below to the three areas identified in your letter:

1. Embedding Consideration of Climate Change Issues

Climate change and wider sustainability is contained within remit of our Board's Resources Committee. The Resources Committee considers and approves key policies and strategies relevant to climate change issues. Following Committee approval these policies and strategies are implemented by management. These include:

- Carbon Management Plan
- Estates Management Plan
- Travel & Subsistence Policy
- Leased car policy (to be reviewed to consider incentivising electric vehicles)
- Procurement Strategy
- Information and Communications Technology Strategy
- Workforce Management Strategy

The full Board considers and approves our Annual Sustainability Report. This report contains details of climate change related issues.

2. Specific Examples

- Our carbon management plan has influenced a project to replace our lighting with energy efficient LED lighting and install voltage optimisation in our offices.
- Through our Estates Management Plan which contains sustainability criteria we have reduced significantly the office space we occupy which in turn reduces our carbon footprint. As part of this process of office rationalisation we have re-located in some instances to use surplus space within the buildings of other public sector organisations. This means that more efficient use is made of the public sector estate and this in turn reduces carbon emissions per head. Specific examples are closure of our Irvine office, relocation of our Paisley office to share a smaller space with East Renfrewshire Council, relocation of our Musselburgh office to share a smaller space with Scottish Government at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, relocation of our Inverness office to share a smaller space with Scottish Natural Heritage at SNH's headquarters, significant space reduction in our Hamilton office where our accommodation is now all on a more energy efficient middle floor and a reduction in space in Aberdeen following a move to a floor of a newly

refurbished office building where we share accommodation with the Scottish Government.

- Our travel and subsistence policy encourages the use of public transport where possible.
- Our leased car scheme contains a maximum CO2 emission that can be used and there are financial incentives for staff to choose lower emission vehicles.
- Our short vehicle hire policy directs staff to hire low emission vehicles.
- To help we ensure we meet the sustainability criteria set out in our Procurement Strategy we have implemented a sustainability tracker to monitor sustainability benefits of contracts. We use public sector collaborative contracts where possible to help maximise the sustainability benefits inherent in these contracts. We recently let a new cleaning contract a requirement of which was that the successful cleaning company must use sustainable products.
- We have invested in ICT to use facilities such as video conferencing, Facetime and on line learning to reduce the need for travel to meetings and training events.
- Through our Workforce Management Strategy we undertook a project to geographically realign our workforce to make sure as far as possible we have the Inspectors with the appropriate skills as close as possible to the services in their caseload. This has reduced travel time, travel costs and travel related CO2 emissions.

Views on Barriers or Challenges

Historically, climate change related benefits have tended to be by products of initiatives primarily undertaken to achieve cash or time releasing savings. Our estates rationalisation and geographic alignment described above are examples of this. We are working to ensure sustainability issues, including those relating to climate change, are central to our policies and strategies. This is important as often climate change beneficial measures have lengthy benefits realisation and pay back periods.

Should you require any further information or wish to clarify any points please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Kenneth Dick
Head of Finance & Corporate Governance
Care Inspectorate

