

Open letter from scientists to Rt Hon Greg Hands, Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change

We are deeply concerned about Mr Angus Rose, a software engineer from London, who is on an indefinite hunger strike outside the Houses of Parliament since 14th March. He is asking that members of the House of Commons receive a briefing from the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance, on the risks of and solutions to the climate crisis. He is also asking for this briefing to be televised.

Mr Rose is driven by his fear for the future of his young niece and nephews. We are not all in agreement with the tactic of a public hunger strike. However, we can unanimously support the idea of policy makers receiving the latest scientific evidence on the climate and ecological crises and its solutions. As you might know, from a paper published in *Nature* just before COP26, most climate scientists are now anxious about the future and expect to see catastrophic changes in their lifetimes¹.

Faced with a similar demand recently, the Swiss Federal Assembly agreed to receive a briefing from scientists about the climate and ecological crisis.

The crisis is evolving at a rapid pace and it is increasingly difficult for politicians to understand the significance of the latest science that they do not have time to read and digest. We all saw and appreciated the work done by the Government Chief Scientific Adviser during the height of the Covid19 crisis. We are convinced that a similar briefing on the climate and ecological crises would help our leaders to enact the right policies to decarbonise our society at the required pace, while also preserving biodiversity.

Yours sincerely,

1. Simon Lewis, Professor of Global Change Science, University College London, UK.
2. Hayley J. Fowler, Professor of Climate Change Impacts, Director of the Centre for Climate and Environmental Resilience, School of Engineering, Newcastle University, UK.
3. Benjamin K. Sovacool, Professor of Energy Policy, University of Sussex, UK.
4. Ed Hawkins MBE, Professor of Climate Science, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, University of Reading, UK.

¹ Tollefson, J. (2021) 'Top climate scientists are sceptical that nations will rein in global warming', *Nature*, 599: 22–24. doi:[10.1038/d41586-021-02990-w](https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02990-w).

5. Susan Michie, Professor of Health Psychology, University College London, UK
6. Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology, University of Sussex, UK.
7. Julia Steinberger, Professor of societal challenges of climate change, Institute of Geography and Sustainability, Faculty of Geosciences and Environment, University of Lausanne, Switzerland.
8. Pierre Friedlingstein, Professor of Mathematical Modelling of Climate Systems, University of Exeter, UK.
9. Michael Obersteiner, Professor of Global Change and Sustainability, University of Oxford, UK
10. Sir David King, Chair, Centre for Climate Repair at Cambridge, University of Cambridge
11. Bill McGuire, Professor Emeritus of Geophysical & Climate Hazards, University College London
12. Chris Smith, Senior Research Fellow in Physical Climate Change, University of Leeds, UK
13. Jonathan Bamber, Professor of Glaciology and Earth Observation, University of Bristol, UK and Technical University Munich, Germany.
14. Paul Valdes, Professor of Geography and Director of the NERC GW4+ Doctoral Training Partnership, University of Bristol
15. Dr Malcolm Hudson. Associate Professor, Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences University of Southampton, UK
16. Tim Birkhead FRS, emeritus professor of Zoology, University of Sheffield, UK
17. Gabriele Hegerl FRS, Professor of climate system science, U. Edinburgh, UK
18. E.J. Milner-Gulland, Professor of Biodiversity, Oxford, UK
19. Richard Allan, Professor of Climate Science, Department of Meteorology, University of Reading, UK
20. James Dyke, Associate Professor of Earth System Science, University of Exeter
21. Amanda Maycock, Associate Professor of Climate Dynamics and Director, Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds, UK
22. Professor Joy Carter, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Geochemistry and Health and former Vice Chancellor.
23. Professor Marilyn Strathern DBE, Emeritus of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge
24. Professor John Marsham, Professor of Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds, UK
25. Dr. Graham Mann, Lecturer in Atmospheric Science, University of Leeds, UK
26. Cat Scott, NERC Independent Research Fellow, University of Leeds, UK
27. Cathryn Birch, Associate Professor of Meteorology and Climate, Leeds, UK
28. Richard Beardsworth, Professor of International Relations, U. of Leeds, UK
29. Geoff Goodwin, Lecturer in Global Political Economy, University of Leeds, UK
30. Dr Markus Fraundorfer, Lecturer in Global Governance, University of Leeds, UK
31. Dr. Papiya Mazumdar, Lecturer in Global Health, University of Leeds, UK
32. Laura Considine, Associate Professor International Politics, University of Leeds, UK
33. David Humphreys, Professor of Environmental Policy, Open University, UK
34. Professor Rob Wilson, University of St Andrews

35. Wendy Hollway, Emeritus Professor of Psychology, Open University, UK
36. Anne Magurran, Professor of Ecology, University of St Andrews
37. Professor David Burslem, Interim Director for Environment and Biodiversity, University of Aberdeen, U.K.
38. Jason Ralph, Professor of International Relations, University of Leeds.
39. Stephen Sterling, Emeritus Professor of Sustainability Education, University of Plymouth
40. Professor Alistair Jump, Professor of Plant Ecology, University of Stirling
41. Professor Philip Wookey, Professor of Ecosystem Science, University of Stirling
42. Dr Victoria Hurth, Freelance Pracademic, UK
43. Ann Phoenix, Professor of Psychosocial Studies, University College London, UK
44. Dr Viktoria Spaiser, Associate Professor in Sustainability Research and Computational Social Science, University of Leeds, UK
45. Professor Adrian Gallagher, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Leeds.
46. Dr Cameron Brick, Department of Psychology, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.
47. Professor Alice Larkin, Head of School of Engineering, Tyndall Centre, University of Manchester
48. Professor Pete Langdon, Professor of Quaternary Science, University of Southampton
49. Professor Mark Mulligan, Professor of Physical and Environmental Geography, King's College London
50. Dr. Luis Garcia-Carreras, Lecturer in Atmospheric Science, University of Manchester
51. Professor Martin William Gallagher, Lecturer in Atmospheric Science, Centre for Atmospheric Science, University of Manchester, Manchester
52. Professor Rebecca Lunn, Head of the Centre for Ground Engineering and Energy Geosciences, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.
53. Professor Zoe Robinson, Director, Institute for Sustainable Futures, Keele University
54. Professor Zoe Shipton, Professor of Geological Engineering, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.
55. Professor Iain Stewart, Professor of Geoscience Communication, University of Plymouth
56. Professor Marcel Jaspars, Professor of Chemistry, University of Aberdeen
57. Professor Clare Bond, Professor of Geoscience, University of Aberdeen
58. Dr Mia Gray, Associate Professor, Dept of Geography, University of Cambridge.
59. Dr Duncan McLaren, Research Fellow, Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University.
60. Professor Eric Verspoor, Rivers and Lochs Institute, University of the Highlands and Islands Inverness
61. Gordon McFiggans, Professor of Atmospheric Science, University of Manchester
62. Professor Paul Bates CBE FRS, Professor of Hydrology, University of Bristol
63. Dr Alix Dietzel, Lecturer in Climate Ethics, University of Bristol
64. Professor Daniela Schmidt, School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol,
65. Dr Erica Hendy, School of Earth Sciences, University of Bristol

66. Dr Ruzanna Chitchyan, Associate Professor in Computer Science and EPSRC Living with Environmental Change Research Fellow, University of Bristol
67. Dr Natalie Lord, Honorary Research Associate in Climate Science, University of Bristol
68. Professor Chris Preist, Professor of Sustainability and Computer Systems, and University Academic Lead for Sustainability, University of Bristol.
69. Professor Colin Taylor, Emeritus Professor of Earthquake Engineering, University of Bristol, and Policy Fellow for Sub-National Infrastructure Decarbonisation, Institution of Civil Engineers
70. Professor Nicholas Howden, Professor of Water & Environmental Engineering, University of Bristol
71. Nicolas Larrosa, Senior Lecturer in Structural Integrity & Nuclear MSc Director, University of Bristol
72. Dr Colin Nolden, Researcher, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford & Research Fellow, Law School, University of Bristol
73. Professor Kate Tilling, Population Health Sciences, University of Bristol.
74. Dr David MacLeod, Senior Research Associate, University of Bristol
75. Professor Martin Genner, School of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol
76. Dr Heather Buss, Associate Professor in Biogeochemical Weathering, University of Bristol
77. Professor Dann Mitchell, Professor of Climate Science, University of Bristol
78. Professor Vanesa Castán Broto, Professor of Climate Urbanism, Urban Institute, University of Sheffield
79. Dr Peter Watson, NERC Independent Research Fellow, School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol