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UNFCCC COP 26

Thank you for your letter of 12 August to Michael Gove. I am responding on his behalf as the Minister responsible for UK constitutional affairs.

I was pleased to be able to speak to you ahead of the UK Government's announcement that we will hold COP26 in Glasgow, should our campaign for the Presidency be successful. There is clearly much enthusiasm in the UK and Scottish Governments about making this COP a success.

Holding COP26 in Glasgow, one of the UK's great and most sustainable cities, demonstrates our UK-wide commitment to tackling climate change. The UK Government intends to achieve a genuinely 'all of society' COP26 that will draw on the strengths of all parts of the UK and bring together stakeholders from across the country in a year of action that culminates in the summit in Glasgow.


UK Government officials are already in contact with their Scottish Government counterparts, as well as with Police Scotland and Glasgow City Council, to establish how we can build a strong COP26 partnership to take forward the preparations. An officials' visit to Scotland is planned for early September to kick this off.

As you will be aware, COP26 is held under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UK Government will represent all parts of the UK in the international negotiations at this forum. However, the UK negotiating teams at past COPs have included representation from Scottish Government and that should be the case again, irrespective of a Scottish city hosting the COP. Our officials can discuss respective roles for COP26 moving forward. The UK

Government recognises that many aspects of climate change are devolved or are dependent upon devolved delivery and it will clearly be essential for all four UK administrations to work together to deliver a successful UK COP Presidency.

Preparations for COP26 are still at an early stage, but as we ramp up our planning we will be consulting the Devolved Administrations and other key delivery partners in the design of formal mechanisms for engagement and decision-making.

I look forward to working with you and your colleagues in Scottish Government and other Scottish stakeholders to deliver the successful UK COP26 that we all want to achieve.

Yours sincerely,


Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP