

8 March 2023



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Freedom of Information request ref CA211

Thank you for your request for information received on 21 February 2023. The response is given below:

Request

Has the combined authority written to or met with UK national or devolved governments to ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2019? Please provide some evidence of the most recent letter or meeting such as a copy of the letter or email sent, or the date, topic of meeting and position of the person that the meeting was held with.

Answer

Yes the Combined Authority is active in raising issues around the impacts of climate change on the Combined Authority area, and regular engages with government on support and action. As an example attached is a letter to the Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey setting out issues on climate that fall within her responsibilities upon taking up the position of Secretary of State for the Environment.

I hope this information is helpful but if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review, you should write to us via our contact us email address: democratic.services@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk or write a letter to Complaints, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, 2nd Floor, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs PE29 3TN within 40 days of the date of this e-mail.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, or via their website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Generally, the ICO will not undertake a review or make a decision on a request until the internal review process has been completed.

2nd Floor
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon
Cambs
PE29 3TN

Yours sincerely



Sue Hall
Data Protection Officer

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2nd Floor
Pathfinder House
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**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP
Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

The Mayor's Office
2nd Floor, Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon
Cambridgeshire
PE29 3TN
Tel: 01480 277180

Wednesday 16 November 2022

Dear Secretary of State

May I firstly congratulate you on your recent appointment.

As the Cabinet focuses on delivering sustainable economic growth for the UK, I write as Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to set out how the area, one of the few net contributors to the UK economy, can help to realise those growth aspirations.

Alongside the remarkable achievements of the bioscience and tech sectors, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is also proud of its pivotal role in the nation's food supply. The Fens provide one third of the nation's fresh vegetables. However, our region and farmers are facing both flooding and draughts as a real consequence of climate change – if our land is lost UK will become increasingly more reliant on expensive, imported foods that are increasingly more impacted by global, political affairs.

Our work on climate change has highlighted the increasing risks to the economy, biodiversity and to local communities. Much of the area is at or below sea level, flooding already affects communities and the recent heatwave demonstrated how water quality can be affected. The Combined Authority is taking action to boost biodiversity and attract more private sector investment into nature and nature-based solutions. Yet lack of water supply is already causing constraints on the growth of Greater Cambridge.

I would therefore propose the following four priorities:

1. Climate change is increasing the water supply risks in an area that is already water-stressed. We specifically ask that changes are made to bring forward the operational date of water company schemes such as the proposed Fenland reservoir, and for schemes to be enabled to deliver wider society benefits in addition to their core role in public water supply. It needs to be a national priority to immediately tackle water supply as a current barrier to the Greater Cambridge economy.

2. We ask for change in prioritisation and national investment in flood protection for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough and the wider Fens to recognise the criticality of the economic assets, particularly the role that the highest quality agricultural land in the UK has in food supply and resilience; and maintenance of these flood protection assets

3. National prioritisation is needed in key rail transport infrastructure (Ely Junction Capacity Enhancements, East-West Rail, Cambridge South Station, Wisbech to March Rail, Peterborough Station Quarter) to help unlock growth across the East and deliver towards Net Zero target.

4. A flagship model for fiscal devolution is piloted for our area, enabling Tax Increment Financing to allow us to fund the infrastructure we need to support rapid growth by retaining an element of the increased tax receipts that are a consequence of this growth. This would also empower us to fix our own problems without needing recourse to central Government for funding.

I would be delighted to meet with you to discuss any of these issues in more detail.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dr Nik Johnson', written in black ink on a white background.

Dr Nik Johnson
Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

The Mayor's Office,
2nd Floor, Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street, Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire, PE29 3TN