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Climate Action:

The temperatures we have seen around the world this summer show the impact the climate crisis is having. The more we delay acting, the more the world will be exposed to the risks the crisis poses and the more costly action will be. Unfortunately, as the Climate Change Committee's (CCC's) most recent progress report makes clear, here in the UK the Government is failing to deliver the action we need.

Last year, the CCC set out that the Government was failing in its implementation of climate policies and that its strategy would not deliver net zero emissions. Indeed, the High Court ruled that the net zero strategy was in breach of the Climate Change Act.

Yet when the CCC responded to the Government's revised plans in June this year, it stated that it was even less confident that the UK will be able to meet its climate goals from 2030 onwards. Furthermore, the Government continues to maintain a ban on onshore wind that means energy bills are £180 higher for every family in the country, while its energy plans will leave us dependent on fossil fuels for as long as possible.

I believe continuing with this approach means continuing with higher energy bills, energy insecurity, lost jobs and climate delay. I therefore believe we need urgent action that will tackle the climate and cost-of-living crises hand-in-hand.

I support calls for a green prosperity plan to ramp up investment over time to reach £28 billion per year in tackling climate change, growing the green economy and creating good, green secure local jobs across the country. This would include delivering a cheaper, zero-carbon electricity system by 2030, including by establishing GB Energy – a new publicly-owned clean generation company – and quadrupling offshore wind, more than tripling solar power and more than doubling onshore wind capacity.

It also includes plans to insulate 19 million homes and establishing a national wealth fund to invest in green industries like hydrogen, gigafactories, green steel and renewable energy manufacturing. These plans will cut bills, create good jobs, strengthen our energy security and tackle the climate crisis.

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