

Dear Sir,

We write in response to your recent articles that climate change is not a priority for Conservative prospective parliamentary candidates, and that some may even need to be re-educated.

There are clearly very many competing priorities for parliamentary time and, particularly given the state of the UK economy, for public money. We wish to make it clear that, if we were elected, the issue of climate change and how we protect the planet from environmental damage would be a very important priority to all of us as MPs.

There is no conflict between fighting climate change and promoting economic recovery. Indeed, we believe that a future Conservative government can use the battle on climate change as one of the key tools to begin this country's rejuvenation. The UK has the opportunity to be at the forefront of new technologies and to build on the fact that we lead the world in trading financial instruments that can influence company and individual behaviour. We also feel that the UK economy would be in a more secure position in the future, if it placed greater emphasis upon developing low-carbon sources of energy.

We would not be prepared to stand back and watch Britain miss out on this opportunity, nor can we afford to run the risk of ignoring the potentially disastrous consequences that harmful climate change could bring to future generations. This is why we were keen to take up the opportunity of being part of the seminar run by the Green Alliance last week.

Yours faithfully

Guy Opperman – PPC Hexham
Louise Bagshawe – PPC Corby & East Northamptonshire
Nick Boles – PPC Grantham & Stamford
Karen Bradley – PPC Staffordshire Moorlands
Damian Hinds – PPC East Hampshire
Damian Collins – PPC Folkestone & Hythe
Conor Burns – PPC Bournemouth West
Dr Phillip Lee – PPC Bracknell
Caroline Nokes – PPC Romsey & Southampton North
Steve Barclay – PPC North-East Cambridgeshire