Session SBI42 (2015)

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A compilation of questions to - and answers by –
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
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Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Mitigation actions

Aware of the fact that "IE" means "included elsewhere", the impact of measures have been included in the UK's 'with measures' emissions projections, however no specific 'without measure' counterfactual is available. However, regarding Table 3, does UK plan to estimate the impact of mitigation actions that have not being estimated (IE), despite the difficulties pointed above? If not, what are the Mayn reasons? If possible, give the explanation by mitigation action or by cluster/sector.

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Tuesday, 26 May 2015

For the following energy supply policies:

- Renewables obligation
- EU ETS carbon price
- Large combustion plant directive
- Additional renewables in generation (Renewable energy strategy)
- Industrial Emissions Directive (as it applies to Large Combustion Plant)
- Electricity Market Reform (CfD and Capacity Mechanism)
- Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) Commercialisation Competition
- Carbon Price Floor

In practice the UK has found that it is very challenging to develop and model robust power generation sector counterfactuals especially for those policies which have been running for many years. The UK therefore believes that it is more informative to focus effort on assessing the impact of existing or adopted policies which are more susceptible to standard modelling. The UK approach has been to estimate the impact of such measures in aggregate and the results are displayed at the top of CTF table 3 as "New Energy Supply Policies". The impact of individual measures therein contained is not available. The UK will keep its approach to policy estimation under review.

For the following waste / business / industrial processes policies:

- Landfill tax (Waste)
- Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation (Business / industrial processes)
- Fluorinated GHG Regulation (Business / industrial processes)

Savings were not explicitly estimated for these policies, although their effect was included in the 'with measures' projections. As savings for these policies were not estimated at the time of the production of projections then it is not possible to estimate them retrospectively, including interactions with other policies, within the timescales available. However, future emission projections will explicitly calculate the savings due to these policies.

For the following Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry policies:

- Woodland Carbon Code
- Revised UK Forestry Standard
- Forestry Act, Felling Licence Regulations and Environmental Impact (Forestry) regulations
- Grown in Britain
- Rural Development Programme
- Wood fuel Implementation Plan

Savings from LULUCF were modelled explicitly as the difference between the Business As Usual (BAU) scenario and the Mid scenario in the LULUCF projections used for the BR[1]. This explores the effect on emissions of higher policy driven planting rates after 2010. However LULUCF projections are extremely uncertain and future projections are likely to assume lower rates of planting in the BAU scenario to reflect the current importance of policy support in delivering afforestation in the UK.

For the following agricultural policies:

- Nitrates action plan
- Catchment sensitive farming
- Soils for profit
- Environmental Stewardship (Entry Level Schemes and Higher Level Stewardship)

The impacts of these policies are not fully picked up in our agricultural inventory; this is because the agricultural inventory is only responsive to gross changes in the overall use of fertiliser nationally, and the size of the UK livestock herd. Any measures that impact on the efficiency of conversions of input to outputs are not captured. There is evidence from the implied emissions intensity (agricultural emissions divided by agricultural output) that efficiency is increasing and there are a number of measures in the above policies that are in part driving this. Analysis in the 2012 review highlighted that potentially between 1.4 and 1.7 Mt of CO2e mitigation was being delivered by these policies, but is not being captured in the inventory. The UK is working on a new Smart Inventory to capture the impacts of mitigation measures that we will be implementing in the next 2 years.

In terms of our baseline, the impacts of the EU common agricultural policy are implicit in both the historic time series and the projections. This is because the FAPRI economic model (that provides the agricultural activity projections) is set up to

model the impacts of the CAP as an 'economic shock' on EU supply and demand via a partial equilibrium approach. It would not be possible to remove the implicit impacts of CAP from our projections without making significant assumptions about the structure of the EU agricultural sector in the absence of subsidy over the last 25 years.

For additional information, the estimated 3M CO2e emissions reduction potential for English agriculture by 2022 comes from analysis carried out by the CCC and Defra, most recently in our 2012 review of GHG mitigation in agriculture (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2012-review-of-progress-in-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-english-agriculture).

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[1] http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=752

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Base year

In section 3.7 "Baseline", the UK indicates that the base year used to calculate the fluorinated greenhouse gases emissions is 1995 (footnote 2 on page 251). However, in section 5.1 "Key Developments", UK indicates that emissions (reduction of 32%) were calculated based on the year 1990 (and this is also stated in Annex 2 Table 2b on page 282).

Please clarify the base year used to calculate the emissions levels of these gases and what are the emission reductions regarding to base year 1995.

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

The UK's base year forfluorinated gases is 1995, as stated in section 3.7 of the biennial report. We thank you for highlighting the incorrect values Annex 2 Table 2b. The base years for HFCs, PFCs and SF6 should be listed as 1995. UK emissions of fluorinated gases(hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride) are collectively projected to be 45% below their 1995 level in 2020, based on the UK's 2013 emissions projections which were the most recent at the time of the biennial report. The more recent 2014 emissions projections project a 49%reduction on 1995 levels by 2020.

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Impacts of oil prices

Table 5 of Annex 2 (page 301) shows the assumptions for crude oil prices (Brent prices) for 2015 ($112.9/bbl), 2020 ($119.9/bbl), 2025 ($127.3/bbl) and 2030 ($135.3/bbl). Given the current prices of Brent oil around $56/bbl (as of March 30, 2015), what are the implications for the projections of the achievements of the projections of the energy sector in table 5.10 (page 261), which shows a steep decrease from 172.6 MtCO2e in 2015 to 72.7 MtCO2e in 2030?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Wednesday 27 May 2015

As part of our regular annual projections exercise, last published in September 2014, the UK did not model a scenario in which the crude oil price falls to levels currently in the market($50-$60/bbl). The 2014 exercise included a scenario in which the crude oil price fell to around $90/bbl over the next few years, falling further to$80/bbl by 2030. Updated assumptions for all fossil fuel prices will be derived in time for the 2015 exercise, the results of which are due later this year. However, the exact level and path of fossil fuel prices to 2030 is not the key determinant of energy sector emissions in 2030. The key determinant of projected energy supply emissions in 2030 is the assumption we make that the electricity generation sector achieves a carbon intensity of 100g CO2/kWh in2030. The 100g CO2/kWh assumption applies to all scenarios we have modelled and means that the projected range of energy supply emissions in 2030 is quite limited.

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Land Sector

Is the land sector included in the UK's 2020 target? If not, against which target does the UK intend to use international markets for the LULUCF sector?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Wednesday 27 May 2015

It is our understanding that you enquire about the usage of LULUCF related offsets (also referred to as 'removal units' under the Kyoto Protocol) against our individual 2020 target as part of the EU's joint fulfilment agreement for the second commitment period of the KP (for avoidanceof doubt, LULUCF is not included in our

target under the Convention). In this context, our answer is as follows: As the UK's First Biennial Report highlights, our emissions are projected to be well below our domestic target of a 12.5% reduction on 1990levels by 2012, as set out under the EU's joint fulfillment agreement. As a result the UK will not need to use LULUCF credits generated under the Kyoto Protocol to comply with our first commitment period target. Additionally, to comply with Decision 13/CMP.1 of the Kyoto Protocol, all LULUCF credits, also known as removal units or RMUs, generated for the first commitment period must be cancelled and cannot be carried over for use into the second commitment period.

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Discrepancy in information

Figure 4.3 shows a decrease of emissions in 2012 related to 2011 levels. This apparently contradicts the information in text on section 4.1 that reads "Provisional emissions estimates for 2012, published in March 2013 showed that UK greenhouse gas emissions were 568.2 MtCO2e excluding the impact of trading within the EU ETS and 581.8 MtCO2e when trading was included."; and section 2.1 that reads "In 2011 total emissions for the UK by UNFCCC coverage - including net emissions or removals from Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) were 553 MtCO2." (Although it is written MtCO2, comparing to section 3.1.1 and 5.1 it seems that it is indeed MtCO2e).

It seems that UK emissions have increased in 2012 to 568.2 MtCO2e as compared to 2011 level of 553.1 MtCO2e (Table in section 3.1.1) and not decreased as show non figure 4.3. Please explain this contradiction

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

Thank you for raising this. You are correct that there is an inconsistency here, and we can confirm that figure4.3 was displayed incorrectly in our BR due to a typesetting error. A corrected version of figure 4.3 is shown in the attached document.

(Attachment: GBR to Q by BRA_Figure 4.3.pdf)

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Emissions increasing

Clarify the data presented in Figure 4.4, "Projected performance against first four carbon budgets", column "Fourth Carbon Budget". As presented, it can be understood that there will be an increase in UK emissions that will need an additional effort to deal with them. Which actions is UK considering to reach this effort?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

Please refer to Figure 4.4 in "The UK's Sixth National Communication and First Biennial Report under the UNFCC" (also to be found in the attached document).

In the "Projected performance against first four carbon budgets" row, and "Fourth Carbon Budget" column, it does not show that emissions would increase, but instead shows the UK Government projected in 2013 that it was not on track for meeting its "4th Carbon Budget" without additional policy effort. The shortfall range was 135 – 315 Mt over 2023 to 2027. The central projection for the shortfall from 2023 to 2027 was projected at the time to be 215 Mt. It is now projected to be 133Mt.[1] The Mayn drivers of changes in the projections are macro-economic updates (economic growth, fossil fuel prices and household projections), revisions to the UK GHG Inventory, updated policy savings estimates and improvements to Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) projections.
Overall the UK projects that its emissions will be broadly falling up to 2035 (where the projections run until). The projections give expectations in the absence of any additional policy effort. (please see a figure illustrating these projections in the attached)/
The UK Government is currently developing its approach to meeting the Fourth Carbon Budget. Under the Climate Change Act, we are required to set out our proposals to meet our budgets "as soon as is reasonably practicable" after we set the budget.

(Attachment: GBR to Q by BRA_Figure 4.4.pdf)

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[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/368021/Updated_energy_and_emissions_projections2014.pdf

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Question by Australia at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Carbon leakage

The UK's domestic target is more ambitious than its burden sharing requirements under the EU. How will the UK ensure that its additional ambition doesn't result in another EU country doing less?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

The UK's Climate Change Act, established in 2008, sets out the UK's long term legally-binding GHG emissions target, which is to reduce GHG emissions by at least 80% below 1990 base year levels by 2050. The Act, which takes environmental integrity seriously, also introduced a system of carbon budgets, which set legally binding limits on the total amount of GHG that the UK can emit for a given five-year period. Targets for the first four carbon budget periods, covering 2008 to 2027, have already been established in law. Where these targets set UK ambition at a higher level than our EU or international targets, the Act requires the UK to cancel surplus EU or international units equivalent to the difference between our EU and international targets and our carbon budget targets. This means that the UK's more ambitious domestic targets cannot reduce the level of emissions reductions other EU Member States must achieve.

Question by Saudi Arabia at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: The assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures

A. Did the United Kingdom encounter difficulty in reporting on its assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures in the BR? Will the United Kingdom be providing information on this assessment in the next BR?
B. How does the United Kingdom tap into the activities under the Conventions to address those concerns arising from the impact of the implementation of response measures.

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

The UK gives full consideration on reporting on the economic and social consequences of response measures contained in the biennial review. Understanding the range of benefits and impacts is an important part of making sure that our policy making is evidence-led. The UK's Climate Change Act places an obligation on the UK to ensure that the portfolio of proposals and policies for meeting budgets must contribute to sustainable development. Tackling climate

change is essential for Mayntaining a healthy, resilient natural environment and for promoting sustainable development.

Where individual policies are expected to have potential negative impacts on sustainability and this is flagged through the UK impact assessment process, including appropriate social and economic impacts in developing countries, the UK endeavours to bring forward specific measures to mitigate this risk. The sustainability criteria used for biomass feedstock is one example of where the UK ensures that the demand created from low-carbon policies drives sustainable activities by excluding biomass which is not sustainably sourced.

Beyond this the UK ensures that the needs and concerns of developing country parties are by supporting countries in a number of ways through direct support, in the form of the International Climate Fund, and the FCO prosperity funds.

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 31 March 2015
Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Biennial Report CTF

In table 3 of the Biennial Report CTF, can the UK further explain the use of the term “IE,” or “included elsewhere?” Where possible, can the UK mention where the referenced figures are included?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

Savings were not singularly estimated for certain policies, due to the fact that no counterfactuals are currently available, however their effect was included in the ‘with measures’ projections, which is why we chose the wording ‘included elsewhere’. Information on UK’s ‘with measures’ projections can be found in section 4.6 of our Sixth National Communication.

Question by New Zealand at Monday, 30 March 2015
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Renewable energy

What percentage of electricity and total energy in the UK is generated from renewable sources? What are the noticeable trends in respect of renewables?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

In 2014, on the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive basis, normalized renewable generation was 17.9 per cent of gross electricity consumption, an increase of 4.1 percentage points on 2013'sshare. Renewable electricity capacity increased by 23% in 2014 compared with2013. This continues the strong growth in renewable electricity generation seen in recent years with the share of renewables more than doubling over the last three years. The most recent official statistics for renewables as defined under the Renewable Energy Directive show that 5.2% of energy consumption in 2013 came from renewable sources. Official data covering 2014 is expected to become available in July 2015.

Question by New Zealand at Monday, 30 March 2015
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: Electricle vehicle uptake

How many new electric vehicles are expected in the UK in 2020 and 2030 as a result of policies providing incentives to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles(proportion of the light vehicle fleet, and absolute), and what are the expected mitigation effects and quantified co-benefits of these policies?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

Ultra low emission vehicle (ULEV) uptake in the UK is influenced by two key policy measures:

1. EU regulations on new car (and van) fleet average CO2 emissions. These encourage the supply of ULEVs into the market and currently run to 2020

2. Domestic support for the early ULEV market. The Mayn support is through the up-front plug-in car and van grants. Other domestic policies include support for public and private recharging infrastructure and ongoing tax benefits. These both incentivise consumers to buy the vehicles as well as their manufacture.

In Driving the Future Today[1] OLEV (Office for Low Emission Vehicles) outline that uptake projections are inherently uncertain, even over this short period. That note shows a projection of ULEV uptake at around 5% of new car sales in 2020, within the range of 3% to 5%. We expect new car sales to be around 2.5m in 2020, so this relates to around 125,000 new ULEVs. It is not possible to provide information on the split of uptake between electric vehicles and other ULEVs such as plug-in hybrid

vehicles – the split would vary by uptake scenario. Therefore it is not possible to set out estimates of the carbon savings and co benefits as the impacts depend on the type of vehicle adopted. The 'do nothing' assumption about uptake of ULEVs (the uptake in the absence of policies) is around 0.6% of new sales by 2020 and 5.5% by 2030. It is not possible to provide information on the impact of individual policies as they are modelled collectively and interact.

Given the timing of the policy measures so far announced, the UK has not published projections of ULEV uptake beyond 2020. We expect uptake of electric vehicles in the UK in 2030 to be strongly influenced by forthcoming EU regulations. The scenarios set out in the UK's 2011 emissions strategy to 2050, the Carbon Plan [2], had a range of uptake of ULEVs between 20% and 50% of new car sales.

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[1] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/driving-the-future-today-a-strategy-for-ultra-low-emission-vehicles-in-the-uk

[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-carbon-plan-reducing-greenhouse-gas-emissions--2

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015
Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: decision-making process

Could the U.K. provide more information on the consulting process to achieve the consistency between domestic Carbon Budget and the share under EU-ESD?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

The Climate Change Act 2008 established the independent, statutory body, the "Committee on Climate Change". Its role is to advise the UK Government and Devolved Administrations on emissions targets and to report to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change. Each year the Committee on Climate Change has a legal requirement to report to Parliament an independent assessment on how the UK is performing against our carbon budgets. The Government is also legally obligated to respond to this report and address any points which the Committee has made.

As set out in the 2009 Impact Assessment of the EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package[1], the CCC provided advice to the UK Government on ensuring consistency between EU-ESD and Carbon Budget targets. The UK Government followed the CCC's advice[2] and so has set past Carbon Budgets to align with EU targets.

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[1] See page 25, section 4.1
http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20090908171815/http:/www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/lc_uk/carbon_budgets/carbon_budgets.aspx

[2] See page 109 onwards: http://archive.theccc.org.uk/aws3/7980-TSO%20Book%20Chap%203.pdf

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Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015
Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: LULUCF sector

For the projection of LULUCF sector, it is shown in the BR that the emission in 2010 is -3,665 ktCO2 eq. And in 2020 is -430kt, while in 2030 it becomes +2,162 kt. What is the assumption behind to change the LULUCF sector from carbon sink to emission source?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

Emissions and removals for the UK Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector are dominated by the categories of Forest Land, a net sink, Cropland, a net source, and Grassland a net sink. In the projections available at the time of the BR[1], the strength of the Forest Land sink starts to weaken after 2005, and the overall net emission/removal from the LULUCF sector moves from being a sink to a source in the early 2020s as the Forest Land sink continues to reduce.

As stated, in the 4th paragraph of section 4.4.7 (page 145) of the Biennial Report, the accumulation rate in forest carbon stocks is expected to fall by 2020, as forests mature to an age at which their rate of carbon uptake reduce, and are then felled. While there was a significant increase in afforestation in the UK between 1950 and 1980, these forests are now reaching maturity and are being harvested leading to carbon stock losses from felling overtaking the carbon stock gains from the resulting replanting.

The latest inventory projections published in May 2014[2] incorporate an improved representation of forest species and management regimes, and take account of

carbon stock changes in pre-1920 forest. While the projections used in the BR assumed pre-1920 forest was in overall carbon balance. As a result, the most recent projections, now based on the 1990-2012 inventory, do not show a decrease in the Forest Land sink until after 2030, and in consequence the UK LULUCF sector reMayns a net sink overall. This is illustrated in Figure 7 (page 29) of the report, which compares the projections for the 2011 (used in the BR) and the 2012 inventories.

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[1] http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=752

[2] http://naei.defra.gov.uk/reports/reports?report_id=798

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015
Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: national mitigation target

As a member of Bubble, the UK doesn't pledge a national mitigation target under the UNFCCC. According to the BR, for those sectors not covered by EU-ETS, the emission reduction target for the UK is 16% decrease compared to the verified emissions from the 2005. However, it is not clear how much effort the UK is going to make on sectors covered by EU-ETS, nor the effort as a whole,
compared with its base year level. What additional information would the UK provide in order to make its effort transparent? What is the emission volumn of those entities covered by EU-ETS in the base year, and in the target year?

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

The EU-wide cap under the EU ETS is determined for all EU Member States and the three EEA EFTA States (Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein) without reflecting a specific share for each Member State.
The allocation of allowances takes place through auctions and free allocation. The share of allowances auctioned on behalf of each Member State in each year is public and can be obtained from the relevant auction platforms.
However, free allocation is provided on the basis of EU-wide rules to installation operators within a certain limit. For each of the nearly 12.000 installations in the EU ETS, the allocation has been calculated based on the common rules. A breakdown of the amounts per Member State, or specific breakdown for the UK for that matter, is not available.

UK’s carbon budgets account for emissions from both the traded and non-traded sector, and of course we have Policies and Measures in place to reduce emissions in the traded sector as well. For a general overview of these, please refer to Chapter 3

of our Sixth National Communication (sections 3.3 – 3.4.5) and our CTF tables in our First Biennial Report. A more detailed outlook can be found here https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/406805/Copy_of_Annex_D__corrected_17-Feb-2015_.xls

With regards to the second part of your question, the UK estimates that 31% of emissions will be in the traded sector in 2020, i.e. the target year. This was reported in our Energy and Emissions Projections 2013 submission. In the base year emissions in the traded sector were 35% of all UK emissions.

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: completeness of GHG emission information

UK does not explicitly mention in its 2013 annual submission that the CH4 and N2O emissions from gasoline and diesel oil used in road transportation were adjusted in the 2012annual review report. Please provide the further information on this issue.

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

The2012 annual review report for the UK was not published until July2013, three months after the submission date for the 2013 inventory submission. Therefore the UK was unable to incorporate the findings of the 2012 annual review report into its 2013 inventory submission. As a result CH4 and N2 O emissions from gasoline and diesel oil used in road transportation were recalculated following the 2013 annual review, which is explained in Chapter 10 (Recalculations) of the UK's 2014 National Inventory Report.

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015
Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target
Type: Before 31 of March
Title: carbon stock change

Carbon stock changes in living biomass in overseas territories due to the conversion from forest to wetlands is not estimated. Please provide the further information on this issue.

Answer by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
at Wednesday 27 May 2015

Carbon stock changes in living biomass for Forest Land converted to Wetlands in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies is reported in the CRF Tables for the 1990-2011 inventory as 'Not Estimated'. The emissions for the rest of the UK are reported as 'Not Occurring'. There is a comment in the CRF tables, recording that the notation key 'Not Estimated' is used because the IPCC Tier 1 methodology does not require biomass carbon stock changes to be reported (this was before the IPCC 2006 guidelines were adopted). Activity data shows that forest conversion to wetland (here defined as peat extraction only) does not occur in the UK, nor in the UK's Crown Dependencies (Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey) nor in the Overseas Territory of the Falkland Islands (which have no forest).

These four territories cover >95% of the total land area of all the UK's Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies combined. However, there is no adequate activity data to allow LULUCF reporting for the Overseas Territories of Bermuda, Cayman Islands and Montserrat, so we have no definite information that there is no forest conversion to wetland in those areas, and therefore this emission has been reported as 'Not Estimated'. As a result of the limited land area and extent of peat extraction, if there is any of this activity, it will be very trivial in the context of UK LULUCF emissions.