EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT (EXTENSION OF PERIOD) ORDER 2025

2025 No. 991

1. Introduction

1.1 This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and is laid before Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

2. Declaration

2.1 The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Kerry McCarthy, at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, responsible for Net Zero strategy and carbon budgets, can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

2.2 The Senior Civil Servant, Jonathan Hoare, at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, responsible for Net Zero strategy, can confirm that this Explanatory Memorandum meets the required standard.

3. Contact

3.1 Abshir Weli, at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Telephone: 07752778403 or email: Abshir.Weli@energysecurity.gov.uk can be contacted with any queries regarding the instrument.

3.2 Jonathan Hoare, Deputy Director, Net Zero, Nuclear and International Group, at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. Telephone: 07825 218673 or email: jonathan.hoare@energysecurity.gov.uk.

Part One: Explanation, and context, of the Instrument

4. Overview of the Instrument

What does the legislation do?

4.1 The Secretary of State is required by the Climate Change Act 2008 to respond to the points made by the Committee on Climate Change's (the "Committee") progress report, and lay a response before Parliament no later than 15th October in each year which the Committee report is made. This instrument extends the deadline for responding to the Committee's 2025 progress report from 15th October to 29th October 2025.

Where does the legislation extend to, and apply?

4.1 The extent of this instrument is the United Kingdom.

4.2 The territorial application of this instrument is United Kingdom.

5. Policy Context

What is being done and why?

5.1 The Committee was established as an independent statutory body under the Act. It advises the UK and devolved administrations on emissions targets and reports annually to Parliament on progress made in reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and preparing for the impacts of climate change (adaptation).

5.2 Section 37(4) of the Climate Change Act 2008 requires that the Government response to this report is laid no later than 15th October.

5.3 The Government seeks to respond to the points made by the Committee's report at the same time as laying their updated delivery plan for carbon budgets 4-6 before Parliament, which will be by 29th October 2025. This will enable Government to consistently and substantively respond to the points raised in the Committee's report.

5.4 As a result, the Government will delay the response to the Committee's report to no later than 29th October to align with the aforementioned updated delivery plan.

What was the previous policy, how is this different?

5.5 There is no policy change. This legislation just extends the deadline for responding to the Committee's Progress Report.

6. Legislative and Legal Context

How has the law changed?

6.1 This legislation extends the deadline for the Secretary of State to respond to the Committee's report from 15th October 2025 to 29th October 2025, using the power under section 37(5) of the Climate Change Act 2008.

Why was this approach taken to change the law?

6.2 This is the only possible approach to make the necessary changes.

7. Consultation

Summary of consultation outcome and methodology

7.1 Consultation is not required for this instrument under the Climate Change Act 2008, and a consultation has not been conducted for this instrument, given this is a minor extension to a statutory deadline.

7.2 The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has engaged with the Committee and the devolved administrations on its intention to lay this instrument.

8. Applicable Guidance

8.1 Guidance has not been produced for this instrument because the memorandum provides the full background to the purpose of this instrument.

Part Two: Impact and the Better Regulation Framework

9. Impact Assessment

9.1 A full Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument because the SI solely adjusts the statutory deadline to respond to 'the points' raised by the

Committee's annual progress report and no, or no significant, impact on the private or voluntary sectors is foreseen.

Impact on businesses, charities and voluntary bodies

9.2 There is no, or no significant, impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

9.3 The legislation does not impact small or micro businesses.

9.4 There is no, or no significant, impact on the public sector.

10. Monitoring and review

What is the approach to monitoring and reviewing this legislation?

10.1 The instrument does not include a statutory review clause, and the Department does not intend to monitor this instrument, as it amends the deadline for 2025 only and does not impose burdens on business.

Part Three: Statements and Matters of Particular Interest to Parliament

11. Matters of special interest to Parliament

11.1 None.

12. European Convention on Human Rights

12.1 The Minister for Climate has made the following statement regarding Human Rights: In my view, the provisions of the Response to the Committee on Climate Change Report (Extension of Period) Order 2025 are compatible with the Convention rights.

13. The Relevant European Union Acts

13.1 This instrument is not made under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, the European Union (Future Relationship) Act 2020 or the Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 ("relevant European Union Acts").