

FOI REF:	14652
RESPONSE SENT:	19/09/2024

Request:

Please treat this as a Freedom of Information/Environmental Information Regulations request.

I would like information about your council's lobbying work in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following question: Has the council written to or met with UK national or devolved governments to ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2023?

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.

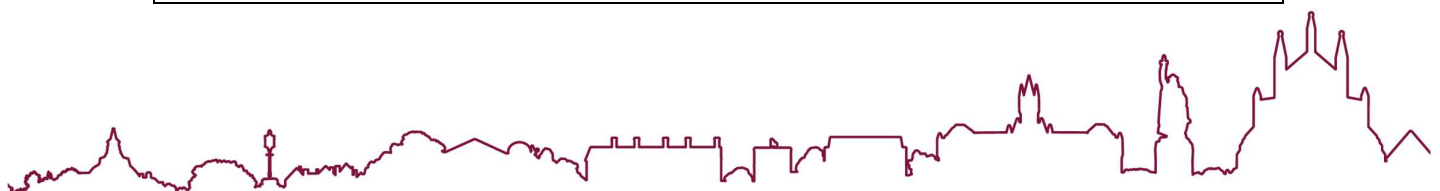
This includes either asking for more powers and funding for local authorities to take climate action, or asking for the government to take further action themselves. This includes working with other local authorities to send joint letters or meetings to lobby UK or devolved governments, and includes both general climate action and calls for action on specific issues such as transport where climate change is mentioned as a motivating factor for taking action. This includes if a cabinet member or other councillor has written to or met with the UK or devolved governments on behalf of the council.

Response:

Thank you for your FOI request. Please find below a summary of engagement Winchester City Council has had with the UK national government to ask or lobby for climate action since 1st January 2023:

Joint Letter to the Secretary of State regarding the 13 December Written Ministerial Statement

The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA), alongside 12 organisations and over 50 local authorities, wrote to the Secretary of State on February 21st 2024 to express concern about the limiting impact of the 13 December Written Ministerial Statement (WMS) on local authorities wishing to set standards for net zero new homes in their authorities.



The joint letter is signed by organisations committed to delivering the government's statutory carbon reduction targets through the planning system, but find their effort hindered by this statement of national policy.

Councillor Jackie Porter, Winchester City Council's Cabinet Member for Place and the Local Plan is listed as a signatory on the joint letter. https://www.tcpa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Joint-Letter-to-SoS-13-Dec-WMS-FINAL_web-vrsn-1.pdf

M3 Junction 9 Scheme

The council has engaged with National Highways on their proposed M3 Junction 9 Scheme specifically on the climate impact of the junction and the need for mitigation. A Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) has been prepared in respect of the proposed M3 Junction 9 Scheme made by National Highways to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Development Consent Order (DCO) (the Order) under section 37 of the Planning Act 2008. [M3J9 7.12.1 Statement of Common Ground with Winchester City Council \(Rev 2\) \(planninginspectorate.gov.uk\)](#)

The SoCG has been produced to confirm to the Examining Authority where agreement has been reached between the parties to it, and where agreement has not (yet) been reached.

Within the SoCG, the council considers the increase in emissions of 160,624,500 tCO₂e over the 60-year lifespan as Significant. The council calls for the scheme to be designed to be carbon neutral as a minimum to meet both the council's policies but also those of the Climate Change Act 2008.

