



The Global Warming Policy Foundation

55 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3QL
0207 340 6038 www.thegwpf.org

BBC Complaints

PO Box 1922
Darlington
DL3 0UR

2nd July 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

During a recent episode of the Today programme (28th June), Lord Deben made a number of seriously misleading claims that went unchallenged by the programme's host, John Humphrys.

The first of these claims was that where communities would like to have onshore wind turbines they are banned from doing so by the Government. His exact words were: "what on earth is the government doing, saying that even where a community wants to have an onshore wind farm, it can't have it? This is sheer dogma." This is incorrect. There is no ban on them being built, and there are indeed onshore wind projects under construction at the present moment.

Lord Deben goes on to claim that onshore wind is the "cheapest form of producing electricity today". This claim is also entirely inaccurate; the Government's own most recent estimates show that for projects commissioned in 2020, combined cycle gas turbines still provide the cheapest form of energy generation when carbon taxes are correctly excluded. These are additional Government-imposed costs and not inherent to the technology in question. Furthermore, there are intermittency and network costs of onshore wind that are not included in these LCOE estimates, thus obscuring their true (higher) cost.

Table 2: Levelised Cost Estimates for NOAK Projects Commissioning in 2020, Technology-specific Hurdle Rates, £/MWh

	CCGT H Class	OCGT 600MW (500hrs)	Biomass Conversion	Offshore Wind Round 3	Large Scale Solar PV	Onshore Wind >5MW UK
Pre Development Costs	0	5	2	5	6	4
Construction Costs	7	63	5	73	52	44
Fixed O&M	2	17	6	24	9	10
Variable O&M	3	3	1	3	0	5
Fuel Costs	35	52	72	0	0	0
Carbon Costs	19	28	0	0	0	0
Total	66	166	87	106	67	63

Source:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/566567/BEIS Electricity Generation Cost Report.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/566567/BEIS_Electricity_Generation_Cost_Report.pdf)

Director: Dr Benny Peiser

Board of Trustees: Lord Lawson (Chairman), Lord Donoughue, Lord Fellowes,

Rt Rev Peter Forster, Sir Martin Jacob, Lord Lilley, Charles Moore, Baroness Nicholson, Graham Stringer MP, Lord Turnbull.

Registered in England, No. 6962749. Registered with the Charity Commission, No. 1131448

Another error made by Lord Deben was to claim that China is doing more than any other country in terms of meeting the Paris Agreement. The truth is that China is planning to substantially increase its coal-fired capacity, that its CO₂ emissions are rising at their fastest rate for 7 years and that the Paris Agreement does not actually oblige China to reduce its CO₂ emissions. This is because their INDC did not include an absolute emissions reductions target, only an ambition to reduce the carbon intensity of the economy.

In a fast moving radio programme, it may not be the case that all of these misleading claims can be rebutted instantaneously. Nevertheless, it is now essential that a correction is published on the BBC's *Corrections and Clarifications* page to set the record straight on these critical points of public policy.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benny Peiser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Benny Peiser

Director: Dr Benny Peiser

Board of Trustees: Lord Lawson (Chairman), Lord Donoughue, Lord Fellowes,
Rt Rev Peter Forster, Sir Martin Jacomb, Lord Lilley, Charles Moore, Baroness Nicholson, Graham Stringer MP, Lord Turnbull.