

Note of telephone conversation with Richard Drax MP on 15 October 2021

Mr Drax telephoned me, as arranged, to discuss my Notes dated 28 September 2021, below.

He told me that he has sent my note to the “top of Government”, and mentioned, I think, Dominic Hinds. He will send me a copy of the reply as soon as he receives it.

Since Mr Drax had done what I asked of him, I saw no point in discussing my concerns around climate change any further with him and I thanked him for what he had done. From my previous conversations with Mr Drax I knew that he will not support anything which does not immediately boost the UK economy or which might slow it down in the short term.

That is not to say that other of his constituents should not contact him. Indeed, I think that they should.

Bernard White

15 October 2021

28 September 2021

Notes for conversation with Richard Drax MP pre-COP 26

1. To recap, I am a volunteer campaigner with CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) and I attend Mass at St. Joseph’s in Wool. Other constituents attend the catholic churches in Wareham, Lulworth Castle, Swanage and Weymouth. I have spoken to the congregations at each of these churches about the need for political action and to explain why we should talk to our MP (<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Campaign-with-us/Parliament-in-your-parish>).
2. May I first explain the background to the three requests that I want to put to you?
3. Pope Francis and the English and Welsh Catholic Bishops’ Conference have asked every Roman Catholic in the country to engage at the political level with our elected representatives regarding the issues arising from climate change.
4. You will know that the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advises governments worldwide. They have recently advised that many of the changes observed in the climate are **unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years**, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea level rises—**are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.** They are **unequivocal** that we must take **urgent action** to curb global heating and prevent **catastrophe**. (See 6th Assessment Report – Headline Statements from the Summary for Policymakers https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Headline_Statements.pdf).
5. IPCC are saying that only urgent reductions of fossil fuel emissions can hope to save us. The question is, will our policymakers and the Cop26 conference be up to the task, because the IPCC effectively announced **a code red” warning for our species?**
6. As you know, all world leaders have been invited to COP 26 in November, hosted by our government, who will be in a position to provide true leadership to the rest of the world, if they are up to it.
7. **My first request**, Mr Drax, is that you lobby the government team on my behalf to ensure that one outcome of the meeting will be to provide the previously agreed financial support for those poor countries who are suffering the most from climate change and desperately need help. They are the ones who are least responsible for causing the dramatic rise in global temperatures. US\$100 billion a year was agreed some years but has yet to be provided.
8. The IPCC says the world needs to take urgent action now to curb global heating and prevent a catastrophe. We should dramatically reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses so that global

temperatures don't rise beyond a disastrous 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels, with each country committing to do its fair share.

9. **My second request** to you, Mr Drax, is that you urge, on my behalf, the UK team presiding over COP 26 to make sure world leaders show the ambition needed to stop temperatures rising beyond a disastrous 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels ¹, with each country committing to do its fair share.
10. CAFOD works to help people in the poorest countries who have already been suffering the most from flood, rising sea levels droughts etc. They have lost their livelihoods and are having to migrate in large numbers. We have also experienced floods and wildfires in Europe, America and elsewhere. Pope Francis has told us that we should take action, and care for the needs of every human being young or old with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan.
11. **My third request, Mr Drax**, is that you ask the UK COP26 team to put the people worst affected by the crisis – those who have done least to contribute to the problem – at the heart of the talks

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Meeting with..... MP

Good morning/ afternoon everyone.

I would like to welcome you all here today but a special welcome to MP for taking time out of his/her busy schedule to meet us in person. I would also like to thank all the helpers who have helped in putting together

¹ IPCC reports

this session, I hope that you enjoy your time with us and find it rewarding. (Are we all happy to have photos taken and for the session to be recorded in print so that we can give you some feedback?)

For those of you who don't know me, my name is, I belong to the Catholic Parish of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs and St Joseph and attend Mass at St. Joseph's in Wool but do actually live in this constituency.

Why are we here? The Bishops' Conference say that everyone should engage at the political level to ensure that our elected representatives are attentive and responsive to the "cry of the earth and the cry of the poor", a view first expressed by Pope Francis in Laudato SI.

Pope Francis has been urging all Catholics world wide "AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN PUBLIC LIFE". AND "URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED NOW TO PROTECT OUR WORLD FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS."

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) advises governments worldwide. They have advised that many of the changes observed in the climate are **unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years**, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea level rise—are **irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years.**"

They are **unequivocal** that we must take **urgent action** to curb global heating and prevent **catastrophe**.

The question is, will our policymakers and the Cop26 conference be up to the task, because the IPCC effectively announced **a code red" warning for our species?** Others have reported ²that unequivocal evidence showed greenhouse gas emissions were propelling us towards **a calamitous fiery future triggered by extreme climate change**..... Only urgent reductions of fossil fuel emissions can hope to save us; a view endorsed by the President of the United Nations, no less.

What can we do?

COP26 as you know is happening in November where all world leaders have been invited, and as this government is hosting the event it will be able to provide true leadership to the rest of the world. We would like to ask you, MP, for your support in lobbying the government team to ensure that an outcome of the meeting will provide financial support for those poor countries who are suffering the most from climate change and desperately need it, as they are the ones who are least responsible for causing the dramatic rise in global temperatures.

We need to take urgent action now to curb global heating and prevent a catastrophe. We know that it's the people in the poorest countries who will suffer the most from floods, rising sea levels and droughts and they have already been hit the hardest with the pandemic of COVID 19. It has been said that 150 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty by the pandemic. We drastically need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses so that the temperatures don't rise beyond a disastrous 1.5 degrees above preindustrial levels., with each country committing to do its fair share.

Our second request to you, MP, is that you urge the UK team presiding over the crucial COP 26 meeting in Glasgow, to make sure world leaders show the ambition needed to stop temperatures rising beyond a disastrous 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels ³, with each country committing to do its fair share

CAFOD has a keen interest in people in the poorest countries who have already been suffering the most from flood, rising sea levels droughts etc. They have lost their livelihoods and are having to migrate in large

³ IPCC reports

numbers. We have also experienced floods and wildfires in Europe, America and elsewhere. Pope Francis has told us that we should take action and care for the needs of every human being young or old with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan.

Our third request to you is that you ask the UK team to put the people worst affected by the crisis – those who have done least to contribute to the problem – at the heart of the talks

MP what will you do to ensure that our government takes the climate crisis seriously?

MP, will you help us?

(Open meeting for questions)

I would like to thank you for attending this meeting, for giving up your time to be with us today. MP, thank you for joining us today. I hope that you leave this meeting with a better understanding of how we feel about the issues facing our world today. I would just like to finish this meeting with a prayer from the Pope's encyclical Fratelli tutti,

Lord, Father of our human family,
you created all human beings equal in dignity:
pour forth into our hearts a fraternal spirit
and inspire in us a dream of renewed encounter,
dialogue, justice and peace.
Move us to create healthier societies
and a more dignified world,
a world without hunger, poverty, violence and war.

May our hearts be open
to all the peoples and nations of the earth.
May we recognize the goodness and beauty
that you have sown in each of us,
and thus forge bonds of unity, common projects,
and shared dreams Amen

