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Dear Chris

Thanks for your reply.

Obviously, any scrutiny exercise of this kind can only assess what has actually happened, not what is about to happen (all things being equal), let alone what has been promised. If the UK Government's environmental performance was assessed on the promises made over the last 20 years, we'd all be celebrating.

The point you raised about the Government's 'overall fiscal situation' is a fair one, though I should point out that there are three separate references to that unfortunate state of affairs in the introductory sections.

I'm aware of the Green Alliance work, and will wait to see what they have to say.

However, having presided over five separate reports of the former Government's sustainable development performance, carried out with proper resources through the Sustainable Development Commission, I know how far short it will inevitably fall. Without some kind of 'inside track', it cannot possibly unearth what is actually going on.

And I need hardly point out that you and your colleagues, having so irresponsibly axed the Sustainable Development Commission, have also signally failed to put in place any alternative independent scrutiny process. Convenient for you, as many have pointed out, but massively problematic from the perspective of proper governance processes.

Like you, sorry not to be more welcoming, not least because I do admire what you are trying to get done inside DECC. But it's the rest of your Government that leaves so much to be desired.

Best wishes

JONATHON PORRITT
Founder Director