



# Conference on Climate Change and Official Statistics

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## Session Four

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### **The use of climate change statistics to inform national policy on mitigation: UK climate change programme**

UK policy on emissions is set out in a comprehensive **Climate Change Programme**. Current **legislation** before Parliament sets out new high-level process for managing UK emissions.

UK **inventory methods are robust**, and comply with IPCC guidance. However, **political focus**, and **high profile targets**, put the data and targets under **intense political scrutiny**.

Policy makers therefore need a **clear understanding of the basis** of inventory and other data; and need to promote informed public debate.

Particular issues relevant to the policy debate in the UK include:

- Treatment of emissions from **international aviation**
- Embedded emissions from **net UK imports** of carbon-intensive goods
- Potential in some sectors (e.g. **agriculture**) for policies aimed at reducing inventory record of GHG emissions to be counter-productive

Understanding of data needs relating to the **economic impacts** of mitigation options needs to be improved.