
COBR Meeting: 12th August 2026

Agenda:

Chair: The Prime Minister

- 1. Protect.** The most urgent thing is public safety. That means ensuring that the fire brigade, health service and care homes have what they need to prevent further loss of life and the destruction of more ecosystems.
- 2. Prepare.** This is not just about extreme heat this summer. A super El Niño is brewing, which will bring more extreme weather this autumn and into next year. The Climate Change Committee has concluded that the UK is woefully unprepared. All government departments must be instructed to review preparedness arrangements and work with HM Treasury to ensure the right resources are in place. Time and again we have learned that preparedness is cheaper than a belated response.
- 3. Prevent.** There is only one way to prevent ever increasing damage to our communities and economy as a result of climate change - that is to decarbonise our economy at an emergency pace, and work with other countries to ensure they do the same. DESNZ Secretary of State should be instructed by the PM to devise a new, much bolder decarbonisation pathway, commensurate with the latest threat picture. The Foreign Secretary should convene with key counterparts in Europe, China and other countries that are progressive on climate change and identify areas where decarbonisation can be accelerated. The UK should kickstart this process by leading by example, showing the economic benefits that will flow from genuine emergency action.
- 4. Public:** The public has a right to understand the rising risks posed by climate change and ecosystem collapse. A resilient nation depends on an informed public. The rising tide of disinformation on climate is slowing action, even though it would deliver major co-benefits for national security, the cost of living and wellbeing. The Prime Minister should host a **televised emergency briefing**, with independent experts setting out the facts of climate change and ecological collapse. The briefing should emphasise the opportunity for national renewal if citizens, business, and local and national governments come together to act.