

The Office of the Director-General  
April 18, 2024

**Reference CAS-7778806-H0Y0C0 – 25 March**

Dear Mr Keighley

In your letter about the BBC coverage of climate change issues your key point seems to be that the science is not settled around climate change and thus the focus of reporting on the Today programme on February 8<sup>th</sup> was wrong.

It's important to address your broad concern about the manner in which the BBC reports on human-induced climate change. In your complaint you say "there are many thousands of scientists and leading political figures around the world who disagree" that it is a settled issue.

The BBC's position is to reflect the available evidence and the informed scientific opinion. The vast majority of international and national bodies involved in the study and analysis of climate change agree the scientific evidence shows the global climate is changing and the change is predominantly human-induced.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [Sixth Assessment Report](#) (AR6) [summary](#) for policymakers 24 says, for example "It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land. Widespread and rapid changes in the atmosphere, ocean, cryosphere and biosphere have occurred".

This view is supported by others including: the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#); the independent [Committee on Climate Change](#); [the Australian Bureau of Meteorology](#); and the [US National Aeronautics and Space Administration](#). Numerous organisations such as the [United Nations](#) have referred to the current situation as a climate emergency.

Contrasting or dissenting views are not automatically excluded but the BBC seeks to give due weight to the range of relevant perspectives. Minority views on the causes of climate change will not, therefore, be given the same prominence or weight as the opinion of the majority of relevant climate scientists.

What is highly relevant now is to reflect the political arguments about what to do about climate change and what's affordable – these views change all the time. The fact that the net zero policies look harder now in the light of shifting economic circumstances (war, energy prices, etc.) says nothing about the basic science. The BBC is happy to host energetic debates on the best political and economic responses within the framework of the, broadly settled, science. This is what the *Today* programme was doing on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks

BBC Complaints Team  
[www.bbc.co.uk/complaints](http://www.bbc.co.uk/complaints)