

Ms Jane McCall,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

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The UN Sustainable Development Goals apply to parliament also

I write to you in your capacity as a member of the House of Commons Commission which is responsible for Parliament's next Annual Report (2017–18). I draw your attention to the failure of parliament to take steps to implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which, with cross party support, the UK signed up to in 2015.

The enclosed report points to failures by both government and parliament, reinforcing the critical reports of the International Relations Committee and the Environment Audit Committee. The UN's Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform shows how poorly the UK government has performed, judged against comparable states.

Parliament has performed poorly. In February, media criticism pointed to its profligate use of single-use plastic items. Although the Annual Report (2016–17) addresses these issues, it does not take into account the principles of interconnectedness underpinning the SDGs. At the same time, local authorities, academic institutions and our leading companies have done so, showing how the SDGs influence decision-making and in drafting their annual Corporate Social Responsibility programmes.

Surely Parliament is no different to these. As example, the report shows how the Fiji parliament has tackled this matter. Also, the Report urges your Commission to study *Parliament's Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: A Parliamentary Handbook*. Designed to be an easy-to-use resource to help parliamentarians and their staff, it shows how they too can play an effective role in implementing the SDGs.

Other members of the United Nations Association are writing to their Members of Parliament to press you and your fellow Commission members to ensure that your Annual Report (2017–18) fully takes the SDGs into account. For myself, I urge you to convince them you are already doing this.

Yours sincerely

David Wardrop
Chairman