

Letter to the Western Telegraph on Climate Change

5th July 2012

Dear Editor,

The record-breaking rainfall that has dampened spirits, as well as prospects for the tourist industry, is another example of the weather extremes that are becoming more frequent globally.

While climate scientists are careful not to link such events to climate change without sufficient evidence, that evidence is increasing.

Research, led by Myles Allen of Oxford University, indicates that climate change made the severe floods that affected England and Wales in the autumn of 2000 twice as likely to happen [1].

In response to the devastating floods that struck Pakistan two years ago, a World Meteorological Organization scientist said, "there's no doubt that climate change is a major contributing factor" [2].

And last November, a United Nations-backed report confirmed the link between climate change and current trends in extreme weather [3]. This report noted a significant increase in heavy rainfall in some areas and predicted that this is likely to increase during this century.

Of particular concern is the fact that the recent observed changes in rainfall have been even greater than the changes projected by climate models [4].

We hope that these ominous events will act as a spur for all of us, individuals and politicians, to do far more to cut the emissions that are fuelling climate change.

Yours sincerely

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NOTES

1. 'Climate change doubled likelihood of devastating UK floods of 2000', Guardian, 16th Feb 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/feb/16/climate-change-risk-uk-floods>

and

"Blame human emissions for British floods", New Scientist, 16th February 2011

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn20141-blame-human-emissions-for-british-floods.html>

2. "Is the Flooding in Pakistan a Climate Change Disaster?", The Scientific American, 18th August 2010

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=is-the-flooding-in-pakist>

3. UN News Centre, 18 November 2011- UN-backed report spotlights links between global warming and extreme weather

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40440>

4. Current Extreme Weather & Climate Change

<http://climatecommunication.org/new/articles/extreme-weather/overview/>