

20 Glisson Road,
Cambridge CB1 2HD

Professor Stephen Hawking, FRS, CH, CBE.
Gonville & Caius College,
Cambridge,
UK

I write to you as a former Cambridge Professor of Physical Chemistry, Master of Downing College, UK Government Chief Scientist and until recently, the lead advisor to HMG on the Paris Climate Agreement, based at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

The 1.5° C limit of temperature rise was advocated from the FCO, considerably due to the efforts that I and various others made internationally, particularly through the forum of the 'Climate Vulnerable Countries', and against the political odds this target was ultimately included in the Paris Agreement.

So, I am truly delighted to tell you how very much we welcome and agree with your recent comments about the dangers of climate change, especially as you underlined that we are now increasingly '*close to the tipping point where global warming becomes irreversible*'.

The fear is that 'irreversible' leads to 'runaway rates of climate change'. So, I and others read the tipping point reference as being more like an 'event-horizon' over which we must strive not to go, rather than just a smooth progression towards warming.

Some of my colleagues still choose to believe that while the warming progression is serious, it is not really that urgent. I disagree and see that we are now in a race against time. [Recent carbon budgeting reflects this](#). I refer to the truly exceptional work performed at CBAT, led by Aubrey Meyer.

Consequently, I would welcome the opportunity to liaise with you about this and very much hope you might be willing to do this.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dave King

Professor Sir David King, FRS.