

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION
ADMINISTRATIVE COURT

B E T W E E N :

THE QUEEN

on the application of

- (1) PLAN B. EARTH
- (2) ADETOLA STEPHANIE KEZIA ONAMADE
- (3) JERRY AMOKWANDOH
- (4) MARINA XOCHITL TRICKS
- (5) TIMOTHY JOHN EDWARD CROSLAND

Claimants

- and -

- (1) THE PRIME MINISTER
- (2) THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER
- (3) THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Defendants

CHRONOLOGY

25 million years ago

Last time temperature on Earth was 4°C in excess of pre-industrial levels

2.5 million years ago

Evolution of the genus *Homo*

200,000 years ago

Evolution of *Homo Sapiens*

12,000 years ago

The Agricultural Revolution. Human civilisation emerges during a prolonged period of climatic stability, providing conditions conducive to agriculture and settlement.

1441

Start of European enslavement of Afrikans in Afrika. The Portuguese captains Antão Gonçalves and Nuno Tristão capture 12 Afrikans in Cabo Branco (modern Mauritania) and traffick them to Portugal.

1452

Papal Bull Dum Diversus ("Until different"), gave Alfonso V of Portugal the right "to invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens (Muslims) and pagans whatsoever, and other enemies of Christ wheresoever placed ..."

1454

Papal Bull Romanus Pontifex (The Roman Pontiff) authorised Portugal to seize Afrikans and all lands south of the Sahara in Afrika. Providing "the right, total and absolute, to invade, conquer, and subject all the countries which are under the rule of the enemies of Christ."

1492

Start of the systematic project of European colonization. On 12 October 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on Guanahani in The Bahamas, which the Lucayan people had inhabited since the 9th century. Over the next century and a half, the native population of Abya Yala (the so-called "Americas") collapsed by an estimated 80% (from around 50 million in 1492 to 8 million in 1650).

1493

Papal Bull, Inter Caetera (Among other works), issued by Pope Alexander VI, authorised Spain and Portugal to claim exclusive rights of navigation, trade, and colonization outside Europe and further justified the enslavement of Afrikans.

1562

First voyage of Sir John Hawkins, Admiral of the Royal Navy, officially commissioned by Queen Elizabeth I, to Afrika, where in present-day Sierra Leone, he captured 300 Afrikans for trafficking into Chattel Enslavement in Abya Yala..

200 years ago

The Industrial Revolution. Led by the UK (amongst others), with coal providing the primary source of energy

1859

The 'greenhouse effect' is first evidenced by John Tyndall

1884/5

Representatives of all the colonial powers of Europe and America meet in Berlin at the Berlin Conference, convened by Otto von Bismarck, to divide Afrika into 50+ countries, and arbitrarily draw up borders that exist to this day, most of which cut across the logic of nationality, geography, language, culture and other unifying factors.

1917

Alexander Graham Bell, the Scottish-born scientist, engineer and inventor of the telephone, writes "[The unchecked burning of fossil fuels] would have a sort of greenhouse effect", and proposes the use of alternative energy forms, such as solar

1956

New York Times runs the headline: '*Warmer Climate on Earth May be due to More Carbon Dioxide in the Air*'

1988

Testimony of Dr James E. Hansen to US Congress sounds the global alarm on global warming.

1992

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) opened for signature

1993

UK ratifies UNFCCC

1994

UNFCCC comes into force

2000

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution Report: 'Energy - the Changing Climate'

2006

Stern Review, The Economics of Climate Change

1 December 2008

Climate Change Act 2008 comes into force, CCC becomes a statutory Committee

2012

UNFCCC COP commissions an expert review ('Structured Expert Dialogue') of the adequacy of the 2°C temperature goal

May 2015

Final Report of the Structured Expert Dialogue highlights the inadequacy of the 2°C target

December 2015

Adoption of the Paris Agreement and the 1.5°C / "well below" 2°C temperature limit

2016

UN states:

“Climate change is a major factor for disease emergence. It influences the environmental conditions that can enable or disable the survival, reproduction, abundance, and distribution of pathogens, vectors, and hosts, as well as the means of disease transmission and the outbreak frequency. Growing evidence suggests that outbreaks or epidemic diseases may become more frequent as climate continues to change.”¹

12 October 2017

HMG publishes its Clean Growth Strategy

June 2018

Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP approves plans to expand Heathrow Airport

October 2018

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) announces that on the current trajectory of global emissions, the critical 1.5°C threshold could be crossed any time from 2030².

1 MAY 2019

UK PARLIAMENT DECLARES CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY³

27 June 2019

Climate Change Act amended to require “net zero” emissions by 2050

March 2020

Second Defendant approves £4bn+ in cheap finance for carbon economy companies, such as Schlumberger, Baker Hughes, Ryan Air, Easyjet, British Airways, Nissan, free from any climate conditions.

¹

https://environmentlive.unep.org/media/docs/assessments/UNEP_Frontiers_2016_report_emerging_issues_of_environmental_concern.pdf, p.22

² <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-45775309>

³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48126677>

June 2020

CCC Progress Report to Parliament:

“Overall the Government has only fully achieved two milestones out of the 31 set out in the 2019 Progress Report.”

“The coming year is therefore crucial. The delay of COP26 to November 2021 provides a window to address this policy deficit and establish a credible internationally-leading position. The key remaining elements of the net-zero policy package must be put in place in the coming months ...”

“UK plans have failed to prepare for even the minimum climate risks faced”

July 2020

UK Export Finance agrees to provide up to US\$1.15bn of export finance support for UK exporters, as part of the design, construction and operation of a liquified natural gas (LNG) project in Mozambique.

August 2020

Highways England confirms £27.4bn investment in the road network

September 2020

Oil & Gas Authority awards 113 new licences for offshore oil and gas exploration.

18 November 2020

The Prime Minister launches the Government’s “Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution” (reported to raise £4bn new money)

19 November 2020

Government announces £16.5bn increase in military spending⁴.

25 November 2020

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-to-announce-largest-military-investment-in-30-years>

Government announces cut to “aid budget”

December 2020

HM Treasury publishes, “Net Zero Review: Interim Report”

December 2020

CCC’s 6th Carbon budget report:

“Government should target near-zero emissions from ore-based steelmaking in the UK by 2035.”

6 January 2021

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP decides not to “call in” Cumbria coal-mine

29 January 2021

Gov spokesperson says “decision to allow the coal mine would not be reversed”

8 March 2021

John Kerry, US Climate Representative, tells Newsnight, *“The marketplace has made a decision that coal is not the future.”*

11 March 2021

Gov calls in the decision on Cumbria coal-mine

March 2021

The Public Accounts Committee says the Government has “no plan” to meet its climate targets.

2050

4°C?