**Video interview: Gbemi Oluleye**

**Transcript**

This interview was conducted by the Knowledge Exchange Unit in Summer 2021.

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**Please introduce yourself and tell us how you engaged with the UK Parliament.**

My name is Gbemi Oluleye, I’m an Assistant Professor/ Lecturer at Imperial College London. I lead research activity and a research group looking at achieving cost effective decarbonisation of the industrial sector.

My first engagement with Parliament was I was invited as a keynote speaker for a roundtable discussion on industrial decarbonisation, and the roundtable by organised by the All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group. You know, it was run by Policy Connect, and I think Imperial’s and Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment was a sponsor for this event. So I spoke about, you know, the technologies relevant for industrial decarbonisation, but also on how to achieve it in terms of a mix of policies and business models.

**How did you feel about engaging with Parliament before you got involved, and did that change after you engaged?**

I’ve got multi-disciplinary expertise in engineering, economics and policy, so I’ve always been interested in engaging with Parliament so I guess I was just waiting for the opportunity. So when I was invited, I was excited about it, that I was going to present some form of evidence, or talk more broadly about industrial decarbonisation. And so I accepted the invite and we had the discussion and it was successful. We went on to publish a joint paper with Lord Browne of Ladyton on industrial decarbonisation, the cost-effectiveness. So I would say it was a positive experience for me, I learned a lot and I hope everyone who listened, everyone who was a part of that roundtable discussion also learned a lot.

**Was there any support for you to engage with Parliament, either from the parliamentary team that you engaged with, or from your university, and if so, how did that help you?**

I received from them support from my university Imperial College, I received support from the Grantham’s Institute of Climate Change and Environment, I received support from Policy Connect who ran the All Parliamentary Climate Change Group. Specifically the support I received from the University through the forum was a training on how to speak to Members of Parliament, you know, how to present evidence or how to present my research in a very simple way that they can understand and you know, avoid all the scientific jargon. So that helped me to boost my confidence, and to focus my talk so I can achieve a lot in the time I was given. Also from Policy Connect I received support when I was writing the essay, co-authoring the essay, with Lord Browne of Ladyton,on you know, use of simple languages to convey a very complex engineering phenomenon, so this was, yeah, so this helped me throughout the process and afterwards.

**Would you engage with Parliament again?**

My answer is an absolute yes. I think it’s important for researchers to engage with Parliament once in a while, especially since, if you look at the UK, net zero carbon, net zero greenhouses gas, has been passed into law, and the ambition is to achieve it by 2050, so I think researchers who are doing research in climate change directly or indirectly should seize the opportunities, or embrace the opportunities, to engage with Parliament to let them know about the signs, what the challenges are but most importantly, how they can be overcome. So if I am given the opportunity again I will absolutely say yes.