

Dear prime minister,

We wish to make you aware of our concern for the health of Angus Rose, a 52 year old man, who at the time of writing is on day 34 of a hunger strike outside Parliament, consuming only fluids, vitamins, and minerals.

His not unreasonable demand is that all members of parliament including the cabinet are briefed on the climate crisis by Patrick Vallance, the government's chief scientific adviser. This is because you described the briefing you received from Patrick Vallance on 28 January 2020 as a "Road to Damascus" moment.¹ The climate crisis has been described by more than 200 health journals, in an unprecedented joint editorial last year, as risking "catastrophic harm to health that will be impossible to reverse."²

Like our fellow scientist colleagues, we are not all in agreement with the tactic of a public hunger strike.³ However, we agree it is essential that the latest scientific evidence on the climate crisis is officially and openly communicated to the cabinet and members of parliament by the government's chief scientific adviser, just as was done during the height of the covid-19 crisis. We believe this would help the government take the urgent action required to decarbonise the country at the scale and speed required.

Those of us who have spoken to Angus Rose believe him to be of sound mind. He says he does not want to die but is prepared to do so because he is "terrified" for the future of his nephews and niece. It is our ardent wish that a solution can be found that will prevent this. His health is now precarious. He has already passed one checkpoint which indicates severe risk to life: a drop of 18% body weight. We ask you urgently to work to resolve this situation before it reaches the point of no return.

Yours sincerely,

Opinion

Senior health professionals call for urgent climate briefing of all MPs by the chief scientific adviser: open letter to PM

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1. *An open letter signed by clinicians,*
2. *scientists,*
3. *and public health experts to UK prime minister Boris Johnson*

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References

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