

Funding the Future

Article URL

Published: January 12, 2026, 7:16 pm

The New Scientist has reported:

[UK government refuses request to explain cost of hitting net zero](#)

Adam Vaughan, New Scientist

The UK government has refused a freedom of information request submitted by New Scientist to explain why its estimated cost of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 is tens of billions of pounds more than its independent advisers found. New Scientist writes: "Last summer, shortly before the UK enshrined the net-zero target in law, a leaked letter from Phillip Hammond, the then chancellor, warned that the transition to a zero-carbon economy was likely to be 'well in excess of a trillion pounds'. New Scientist attempted to use freedom of information legislation to obtain the evidence supporting the bigger net-zero price tag, but BEIS declined to release the information. Following an appeal, the UK's Information Commissioner's Office last week ruled in favour of BEIS withholding the explanation."

I wonder why?

What are they worried about?

In the meantime, I will go with £1 trillion....nothing suggests it is less to me, based on all the estimates I have seen.

Hat tip: David Lowry