

What will make politicians notice climate change?

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I often wonder when it will be that climate change will create pivot points that have sufficiently deep social and economic consequences that politicians will finally be required to take note, and pursue serious action.

Curiously, the collapse of Humza Yousaf's government in Scotland is an early indication that failure to properly manage issues relating to climate change targets will have political consequences. His departure from office is the result of his failure to manage this issue. I do not, however, think that sufficient warning to create a widespread reaction, as yet.

There are, however, issues on the horizon that make it look like such reactions might be possible. For example, it is forecast that there will be a significant increase in cocoa prices very soon as a result of a twenty per cent decline in the likely world crop, almost entirely due to climate change, with the impact arising over the next year or so.

Coffee prices are already increased for the same reason.

In addition, the wheat crop is expected to be 20% down in the UK this year with unknown price consequences as yet because this may not be true worldwide.

There can be no doubt that other yields are increasingly at risk. The obvious risk is to vulnerable people because of rising food prices, to everyone because of potential inflationary risks that no amount of interest rate increases will address, and ultimately to the viability of life on earth as we currently know it if this trend continues and we are unable to feed people. At some point the risk of major involuntary migrations is also possible as a consequence.

Will this be enough to require change from governments? And if not, what will be?