# Disabled climate claimants take UK government’s adaptation failures to European Court of Human Rights



Two individuals, Doug Paulley and Kevin Jordan, are taking their grievances regarding climate change to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), claiming they have been inadequately protected by the UK's response to climate issues. Both men argue that the repercussions of rising temperatures and extreme weather have severely impacted their lives, prompting them to seek legal redress after their efforts in UK courts were unsuccessful.

Paulley, who has multiple disabilities made worse by increasing heat, and Jordan, whose seaside property was demolished due to severe storms and heightened sea levels, contend that the UK government’s approach to climate adaptation under its latest programme, known as the third national adaptation programme (Nap3), is fundamentally flawed. Nap3, adopted in 2023, outlines the government's strategies for addressing climate change impacts, such as extreme heat, flooding, and coastal erosion.

Their concerns, shared with the environmental group Friends of the Earth—who is also a claimant in this case—centre on the programme’s perceived failure to address the specific needs of marginalised groups, lack defined lawful adaptation objectives, and insufficiently assess risks associated with its proposed policies. Following the rejection of their judicial review of Nap3 by the High Court last year, and the subsequent denial of their appeal by the Court of Appeal, the claimants are now focusing their efforts on the ECHR.

In their submission, Paulley and Jordan will argue that the UK's current plans fall short of complying with human rights standards related to climate adaptation as stipulated in the Climate Change Act. Their case may be bolstered by a recent critique from the Climate Change Committee, the UK's official climate advisory body, which condemned the government's climate preparedness. The committee determined that existing plans to safeguard people and infrastructure against the worsening effects of climate change, including increasingly severe flooding, droughts, and heatwaves, are inadequate.

Paulley expressed optimism about the potential impact of their case, stating, “I’m very hopeful that the ECHR will now take up this important case. Disabled people, who are disproportionately threatened by the impacts of climate change, have been badly let down by this weak and ineffective adaptation programme.” Meanwhile, Jordan emphasised the urgency of the situation, saying, “Millions of homes across the country are already under threat from the impacts of climate change, and without an adaptation plan that’s fit for purpose many, many more will be put at risk.”

As the situation develops, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has refrained from commenting on the ongoing legal proceedings.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://climatecasechart.com/non-us-case/rfriends-of-the-earth-ltd-mr-kevin-jordan-and-mr-doug-paulley-v-secretary-of-state-for-environment-rood-rural-affairs-challenge-to-the-third-national-adaptation-programme/> - This source details the legal challenge brought by Doug Paulley, Kevin Jordan, and Friends of the Earth against the UK's third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3), alleging it fails to protect citizens from climate change impacts.
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/mar/13/uk-climate-crisis-plans-fall-far-short-of-what-is-required-ccc-says> - This article reports on the Climate Change Committee's assessment that the UK's NAP3 is inadequate in addressing climate change impacts, highlighting the need for immediate strengthening of the government's adaptation programme.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/29/uk-strikingly-unprepared-impacts-climate-crisis> - This piece discusses the UK's lack of preparedness for climate change, citing the Climate Change Committee's findings that the government's adaptation plans are insufficient to manage the risks posed by a warming climate.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jul/23/uk-government-climate-crisis-protect-people-legal-claim-court> - This article covers the legal claim against the UK government by Doug Paulley and Kevin Jordan, who argue that the government's adaptation programme breaches their human rights by failing to protect them from climate change impacts.
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/mar/13/uk-climate-crisis-plans-fall-far-short-of-what-is-required-ccc-says> - This source reports on the Climate Change Committee's assessment that the UK's NAP3 is inadequate in addressing climate change impacts, highlighting the need for immediate strengthening of the government's adaptation programme.
6. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/29/uk-strikingly-unprepared-impacts-climate-crisis> - This article discusses the UK's lack of preparedness for climate change, citing the Climate Change Committee's findings that the government's adaptation plans are insufficient to manage the risks posed by a warming climate.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/may/05/two-britons-to-challenge-uk-weak-response-to-climate-crisis-in-european-echr-court> - Please view link - unable to able to access data