



Just Transition Commission

Professor Jim Skea

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Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

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Dear Cabinet Secretaries,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Just Transition Commission regarding the current situation at BiFab which the Commission discussed at its recent meeting. The Commission raised significant concerns about the potential risks posed to the credibility of a Just Transition for Scotland. They regard this as a pivotal moment in asserting, perhaps even maintaining, the principles of just transition to which we are all committed.

We are not qualified or sufficiently informed to form a judgment on the specific decision-making processes that have been followed. But we are acutely aware of the impacts on affected workers and communities and the wider reputational consequences.

It is crucial to retain widespread support for the Just Transition approach, especially among the trade unions and their constituencies. Therefore, we believe that it is imperative that the Scottish Government signals that it has fully understood the public concern caused by recent events and stands ready to take real action to address the social and economic damage and prevent similar circumstances arising in the future.

First, no stone should be left unturned in seeking to remedy the current situation at BiFab through dialogue with all parties concerned.

Second, the events demonstrate the critical need to invest in and support regional supply chains that can participate in a green recovery and the transition to a net zero economy. We are in no doubt of the significant opportunity we have here in Scotland to build and grow our net zero economy. However, without concrete action and investment we risk repeating the situation we find ourselves in currently, with jobs and economic prosperity lost abroad.

In this respect, we recall the three principles we laid out in our interim report to you in February this year: the need for clear transition plans; the need for proactive and ongoing dialogue to help understand society's expectations relating to the transition; and placing equity and justice at the heart of climate policies. Regarding the latter, embedding local economic considerations into the CfD mechanism used to procure renewable energy is critical.

I would be very happy to meet with you to discuss further the Commission's deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Skea".

Professor Jim Skea
Chair, Just Transition Commission