

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 08 April 2022 10:25
To: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: FW: For Consideration - UKG Energy Strategy - Statement/BID

Happy Friday Everyone,

You might find it handy to have a look at the transcripts of Cab Sec and UKG's SoS Energy on good morning Scotland yesterday.

Thanks,

<redacted>

<redacted><redacted>

From: <redacted>
Sent: 07 April 2022 10:57
To: Berge K (Kersti) <Kersti.Berge@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot;
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; Hogg A (Andrew)
<Andrew.Hogg@gov.scot>; Black W (William) <William.Black@gov.scot>;
Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
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<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; Kearns SJ (Sue) <Sue.Kearns@gov.scot>;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; McFarlane J (John) (Special
Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>;<redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: RE: For Consideration - UKG Energy Strategy - Statement/BID

Thanks, Kersti.

To support briefing further – please find attached transcripts of MM and KK's GMS interviews this morning.

Just to add to understand that Scotland Office have suggested to colleagues that **the Strategy will now publish at 1300.**

MM was pressed, sort of, on whether SG would use its devolved planning powers to block any new nuclear sites in Scotland. The Herald and Courier have also asked for a comment on this.

<redacted - regulation 10(4)(e) >

<redacted>

Michael Matheson MSP
UK Government energy strategy
GMS
07 April 22
09m50s

Presenter

The Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport is Michael Matheson. Good morning to you.

Michael Matheson
Good morning.

Presenter

Morning. So did you have a chance to look at this strategy before it was published?

Michael Matheson

No I haven't. The UK Government haven't provided a copy of the strategy to the Scottish Government and they haven't engaged with us in the development of the strategy. I realise that the development of this strategy has been somewhat chaotic given the coverage that it's had in the press over the course of the last couple of weeks. But despite having written to the UK Government last month setting out a range of actions that we believe they should take, and the fact that it will lean very heavily on Scotland's resources, it's critical that the Scottish Government were involved in the reshaping of any strategy and consulted on its content. And sadly none of that has happened, which is completely unacceptable given that Scotland is an exporter of energy to other parts of the UK and will continue to become even more important as we move to becoming a net zero society. So we are in a situation where I'm afraid I can't tell you what's going to be in this strategy. But what I do know is that it'll lean very heavily on Scotland's energy resources in the years to come.

Presenter

Have you had a chance to look at any of it at all yet, and what do you make of what you see?

Michael Matheson

Well other than what's been trailed in the press there is no further detail that we've had. I had a discussion with the Energy Minister Greg Hands yesterday but he wasn't able to provide me with any specific details other than the broad headlines of what would be covered. What I would say is that there a number of things that this strategy needs to look at doing, and that is about exhilarating the decarbonisation of our energy network. In doing that that will reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, which are driving our very high energy costs at the present moment because of the very unstable environment that we have at an international level, and that is likely to continue for some time to come. The second thing it should do, it should also look at ramping up investment in energy efficiency programmes to reduce demand for energy overall. The cheapest form of energy is energy you don't use. So we need to see very clear investment in energy efficiency programmes to help to reduce demand on electricity and gas. And thirdly it should also look at fast-tracking projects such as the Acorn Project which a carbon capture utilisation project in Peterhead which goes right down

to Grangemouth, and is a partnership that could help to not only sustain many thousands of jobs but actually could be an important element of delivering on our energy mix in years ahead.

Presenter

The strategy seems to suggest or it seems to point to new projects in the North Sea. What do you make of that and will you resist that?

Michael Matheson

This is the proposed licensing around oil and gas. My understanding is that that's not much of a surprise. There was an expectation there would be a further leasing round on oil and gas. Keep in mind any new licensing round on oil and gas will mean that it's probably five, six plus years before any oil or gas will be produced. And oil and gas will continue to be an important part of our energy mix as we go forward. But I think it's also from what I see that's been issued from the UK Government, is that they also recognise we need to exhilarate our decarbonisation, or reliance on fossil fuels such as oil and gas. The reality is that the backbone of our energy systems of the future are very much more likely to be our offshore renewable potential, particularly in offshore wind potential. And if we can make sure that we move much more towards that, as the Scottish Government has been doing through our own leadership and through ScotWind, which the largest offshore floating leasing round in the world, we'll help to deliver that in the years ahead. But if we continue our dependence on oil and gas and fossil fuels then we'll find ourselves experiencing the same problem we have just now, the volatility in the market and sky-high domestic energy prices.

Presenter

So given that this licensing round would be five or six years into the future, I take it you would oppose it then?

Michael Matheson

No, the Scottish Government's position is very clear on oil and gas, is that any new oil and gas reserves that are being opened up need to be compatible with meeting our net zero objectives. It's not just the Scottish Government's view now actually, it's also the view of the Committee on Climate Change, that's the independent advisor to both the Scottish and UK Government on these matters... **[CROSSTALK]**

Presenter

That's a very high bar to cross though isn't it? It's highly unlikely they're going to meet those demands.

Michael Matheson

Well, actually the UK Government have already conceded this point. They're presently consulting on a compatibility checkpoint for oil and gas, recognising that they need to put in place a process to assess its compatibility against our net zero objectives. So they've already conceded part of that argument and recognised that, and are consulting on that at the present moment. The bit that they still have to do is to introduce a compatibility check for net zero on existing fuels which are already licensed but not in production which is **[INAUDIBLE]** that we've called on the UK Government to take forward. But if this strategy is also about helping to reduce energy costs, we need to then reduce or dependency on fossil fuels because even those fossil fuels that

come from Scottish waters, they are open to the vagaries of the international market. Oil and gas is an internationally traded commodity. So if the prices go up internationally we can't insulate ourselves from that. Which is why if the objective is to reduce our energy prices we need to move much more quickly towards renewables and energy efficiency, including reducing demand through greater insulation programmes on domestic premises. Those are the ways in which we can help to reduce energy costs and also meet our net zero objectives.

Presenter

Much is made in this plan of nuclear energy and proposals for one nuclear plant getting approval every year. Scottish Government is opposed to new nuclear. Is that still the position?

Michael Matheson

Yes it is. We opposed to nuclear broadly for three reasons. First is environmental impact. So the legacy of nuclear energy lasts with – remains with you for generations to come, which the taxpayers of today have to pay for. Two, safety concerns. There are continued – when problems happen at nuclear sites they tend to be of very significant nature. And thirdly, it is the most expensive form, probably the most expensive form, of electricity that you can choose to produce. Let's take something like Hinkley C which is being taken forward just now by the UK Government. The price of electricity from that per megawatt is about 92 pounds. Whereas the price for something like renewables, offshore wind, is actually almost half of that. It's a very expensive form of energy to produce because it has to be heavily subsidised by the taxpayer. So my concern is that if the UK Government are so wedded to developing further nuclear sites, not only is there environmental risk associated with that, but there is also the issues that it is likely to drive up the cost of people's household bills. Whereas, renewables such as wind and potentially marine, marine tidal in the future would actually reduce the cost of electricity. So, I think the UK Government may have actually been, just allowed themselves to be wrapped up in the nuclear lobby here. Not recognising or acknowledging the fact this is likely to push up energy costs in the future. Whereas renewables are actually much, much cheaper and dropping in prices, and that will help to lower people's bills instead.

Presenter

Will you use your planning powers then to block any moves by the UK Government to have nuclear power plants in Scotland?

Michael Matheson

Our position is very clear on nuclear. We don't believe that nuclear needs to be part of our future energy mix here in Scotland. And we have no intention of taking forward nuclear developments here in Scotland. Interestingly, the largest economy in Europe, the German economy, it will close its last remaining nuclear power plant this year for the reasons very much similar to Scotland. But also because they want to invest in renewables. They've just announced yesterday that they want to double their investment in renewables in order to be completely moving over to renewables by 2035. So, we can see countries already moving away from nuclear, not just for the reasons that we've set out but also because of the costs which are associated with it. When in the [INAUDIBLE] we're not prepared to see domestic energy prices being ramped up because of a dependency on nuclear power.

Presenter

So just to finally confirm then, you would use Scotland's planning powers to block any moves by the UK Government to set up a plan in Scotland?

Michael Matheson

Yeah, the Scottish Government is not in favour of nuclear power, and we don't see it as being part of our future energy mix. And, I don't see any likelihood of that changing in the future, for the very reasons that I've mentioned. Both environmental, safety, and cost to consumers because it's a very expensive form of electricity.

Presenter

Ok, Michael Matheson, thanks very much.

ENDS

Kwasi Kwarteng MP
UK Government energy strategy
GMS
07April22
09m37s

Presenter

Well as billed let's get more on the UK Government's energy strategy with the man who's setting out those plans this morning alongside the Prime Minister, the Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng is with us now. Good morning to you.

Kwasi Kwarteng
Hello. Good morning.

Presenter

We've just heard from Scotland's Energy Secretary Michael Matheson there. He says there was no consultation with the Scottish Government, not even a pre-release copy of this document. Why not given that it leans so heavily on Scotland's resources?

Kwasi Kwarteng

I think there was quite a lot of engagement with Scottish colleagues. I'm disappointed that Mr Matheson has said what he has said. And of course we've always engaged with colleagues in Scotland on the net zero strategy which was published only a few months ago. We engaged, again, on the hydrogen strategy. And we've had plenty of conversations with Scottish colleagues in the run-up to this strategy

Presenter

Not a good start though given that you might rely on Scottish Government's support for some of your plans?

Kwasi Kwarteng

I think it's a very good start indeed, actually. The strategy has landed really well, and people appreciate the fact that it's important to have independence in the UK, energy independence, energy security in a very uncertain world. And I think it's a very timely document.

Presenter

There is massive emphasis on new nuclear reactors within this document. It is something which the Scottish Government is entirely against. We've – again, we've just heard from Michael Matheson. He says the Scottish Government has no intention of taking forward nuclear developments in Scotland. Planning powers are devolved. Does that mean that ministers here have a veto should you wish to plan nuclear reactors here?

Kwasi Kwarteng

So we're planning nuclear reactors across England and Wales. There's a huge appetite, particularly in Wales. Wylfa is a great site. But we have no plans to impose nuclear reactors in Scotland. As you say it's a devolved affair. That's up to people in Edinburgh to decide what their nuclear policy is. We feel that the only way you can get decarbonised baseloads, so that's continuous power that's decarbonised is through

nuclear. I don't know what the answer that the Scottish Government have to that question. But we're very clear that nuclear power has to be an important part of an energy mix, a decarbonised energy mix in the future.

Presenter

Well, their answer to that would be more renewables. We'll come back to that in a moment. But just to be clear that there are no circumstances in which your government or any future UK government would use its powers to push through new nuclear in Scotland if the Scottish Government remains opposed?

Kwasi Kwarteng

Very clear about that. It's a devolved issue and it's up to them. But in terms of renewables, renewables are great but they don't offer continuous supply of energy. And even – anyone can understand that. And the reason why we're focussed on nuclear as well as renewables is that we want to have what's called firm, dispatchable power. We need to have something that can essentially provide energy 24/7. The offshore wind, the onshore wind, that doesn't do that. Because clearly they don't generate electricity when the wind isn't blowing. Similarly with solar, it doesn't generate electricity when the sun isn't shining. So, nuclear is a very important part of a balanced energy system. That's our view and it's set out very clearly in the strategy.

Presenter

It takes an awful long time though and something which one of our other contributors this morning, the Director of SSE Renewables, has said as well is that the planning process needs to be more streamlined. Because, he's looking at offshore wind and your proposals there. He says it takes eight to 10 years for offshore wind to go through a planning process when they can build a turbine in a day.

Kwasi Kwarteng

So I think that there's a bit of confusion here. In terms of offshore wind, we have 10.4, nearly 11 actually now, gigawatts. And we have the second largest installation of offshore wind in the world. It's only the Chinese that have more offshore wind and they only surpassed us last year. So we've got lots and lots of offshore wind. We've also got lots of offshore wind projects in the pipeline. So we've got something like nine gigawatts that's – we're going to be on stream. We've got a further, up to seven that we've allocated in this auction round. So there's plenty of offshore wind that's coming on stream. And yes you're right, we can streamline the planning process. But for the next five, 10 years, we have lots of offshore wind projects that I'm looking to see being deployed in the UK.

Presenter

Is there enough space on the grid for all of this to be fed round the UK? Because that was the other issue that Stephen Wheeler from SSE raised, that there's issues with the grid. And that the energy can't simply be stored and moved round as planned

Kwasi Kwarteng

I think there is a question about how we can be smarter about the grid, particularly about offshore wind. So with offshore wind there's a thing I commissioned when I was Minister of State for Energy called the Offshore Transmission Network. And the idea

behind that is to have a network of offshore where we can then essentially land the electricity. Not in lots of different sub-stations, but at single points, you know, on our shores. And I think there's a lot of thinking we're doing about how we can make that more efficient, I completely accept that.

Presenter

Glasgow hosted COP26 what, just six months ago. How does a strategy which places nuclear – which isn't a clean energy by any means – and more oil and gas at the forefront of its strategy, how does that square with the aim of achieving net zero by 2050?

Kwasi Kwarteng

I think there's no contradiction between this. People say this all the time. We've always been very clear that gas is a transition fuel. So the sector deal that I negotiated along with my successors was called the North Sea Transition Deal. And it was widely received, well received in Aberdeen, North East Scotland because essentially it was committed to the industry but it realised that we have to decarbonise... **[CROSSTALK]**

Presenter

How is it a transition though if you're starting to bring on new applications for sites?

Kwasi Kwarteng

It's a transition because we need to have gas in the immediate short-term future. And not only so that we can have security of supply, but lots of the new technologies... If you look at blue hydrogen production or carbon capture, you can't have those new technologies without methane, without natural gas. So what we're saying is that yes we want to hit net zero by 2050, but in the short-term, we're in 2022 now, we're not simply going to switch off the industry. And I think people in Scotland are very conscious of that. There are something like 150,000 people in Scotland who work in the industry... **[CROSSTALK]**

Presenter

Will oil and gas... But will the new oil and gas fields undergo a compatibility check against the net zero objectives like the Scottish Government are calling for?

Kwasi Kwarteng

All our policies are examined, or rather seen or conceived, through the context, through the lens of net zero. Net zero is part of the law of the land, it was passed in 2019. And ever since I've been in place, which is for the last three years, net zero has been at the centre of our energy policy. That's why we had a net zero strategy that was published only five months ago ahead of COP26. And the net zero strategy was 250 pages I think of quite detailed policy analysis across the whole range of the economy on how we can reach net zero. So we're totally committed to it.

Presenter

None of this strategy helps people today. It doesn't help them use less energy in their homes, it doesn't help them convert their heating away from oil and gas. How can this help people today who are struggling?

Kwasi Kwarteng

I think that's a great question. And of course it's a strategy. So any strategy consultant, anybody would tell you it's a long-term plan. A strategy addresses longer-term issues, and clearly in the short-term we have to give a measure of support, financial support, and that's what we're doing. The strategy is a strategy, it's a long-term plan. It's not going to help you pay your bills next week, and I fully understand that.

Presenter

Front pages this morning reporting on the tax status of the Chancellor's wife, Akshata Murthy. She's non-domiciled for tax purposes which means she's not paying any tax in the UK on her foreign earnings. How comfortable are you with that?

Kwasi Kwarteng

I think it's very clear what's happening here, and I'm very comfortable with the fact that she's an Indian citizen, she can't have dual citizenship. So as an Indian citizen...

Presenter

Living in Downing Street.

Kwasi Kwarteng

... she pays tax in India on the income that she has in India and she pays tax in the UK on the income that comes from the UK, and that's what non-dom tax status means. And we've had that for 200 years, it's not something new or... **[CROSSTALK]**

Presenter

But for the Chancellor's wife to have this status, does that not make you uncomfortable at all? It could prove difficult politically surely for the Conservatives?

Kwasi Kwarteng

Well she's an Indian citizen. I mean you're not suggesting that the Chancellor can't be married to someone who is a foreign citizen? I don't understand what the implication is? And as an Indian she's been very clear that she has tax responsibilities in India which is where she's a citizen but as a non-dom she pays tax on UK income here in the UK. I think it's really very clear and I don't understand why people are making this attack on a person who isn't a politician and she happens to be married to someone who is. I don't see why people should be attacking her.

Presenter

Kwasi Kwarteng, the Business Secretary, thank you very much indeed for your time this morning.

[END]

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 13 May 2022 15:11
To: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: FW: UK Government nuclear energy fund announcement and Scotland's involvement

Hi <redacted>,

Apologies – I wrote this AM but never hit send!

Media enquiry below has come in to us directly.
Some suggested standard lines below

The Scottish Energy Strategy, published in December 2017, confirmed the Scottish Government’s continued opposition to new nuclear stations, under current technologies.

We have to invest in the energy sources that will get us to net zero while delivering the best deal for taxpayers and energy consumers

From: <<redacted>@digit.fyi>
Sent: 13 May 2022 09:41
To: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: UK Government nuclear energy fund announcement and Scotland's involvement

Good morning, <redacted>and <redacted>.

I am writing a new piece this morning based on a new UK Government announcement of a fund to support future nuclear power project. Source below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fund-to-secure-our-energy-supply-and-boost-cutting-edge-nuclear-projects-opens-for-business>

The piece mentions that the fund will offer “opportunities for projects in every region of the UK.”

I am emailing to establish the Scottish Government’s stance on this news, and to establish whether the funding is set to cover Scotland at all?

Kind regards,
<redacted>
Staff Writer

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 05 April 2022 17:31
To: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: RE: Action 10:00 AM Wednesday 6 April - Key lines Cabinet Secretary Meeting with Minister Hands

Hi <redacted>,

High level lines on Nuclear are below. The latest FMQ is saved here too if it helps - <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A37055440/details>

Background

The Scottish Energy Strategy, published in December 2017, confirmed the Scottish Government's continued opposition to new nuclear stations, under current technologies.

National Grid ESO has conducted a study of the effects of the earlier than expected closure of nuclear generation in Scotland which concludes that the system will remain secure with any potential operational issues and risks being identified and mitigations put in place.

A mixture of renewables, storage and carbon capture technology – as well as increased interconnection across GB can support a secure and decarbonised power sector in Scotland following the closure of the existing large nuclear generators

Top lines

- We have to invest in the energy sources that will get us to net zero while delivering the best deal for taxpayers and energy consumers
- It is still the case that compared to renewables nuclear power presents poor value for the consumer
- The evidence of this is provided by the contract awarded by the UK Government to Hinkley Point C nuclear station in 2016 which will result in energy consumers subsidising its operation until 2060.
- Our priority continues to be to support energy efficiency, develop Scotland's huge renewable resource and to promote storage and flexibility
- The recent announcement of ScotWind will allow us to make huge progress in decarbonising our energy supply – vital if we are to reduce Scotland's emissions – while securing investment in the Scottish supply chain of at least £1bn for every gigawatt of power.
- This in stark contrast to the obsession with traditional nuclear technologies by the UK Government costing billions of pounds to the taxpayer.

<redacted – out of scope>

<redacted>,

The Cabinet Secretary is meeting with Mr Hands in terms of the forthcoming Energy Strategy tomorrow at 4.30pm. I am currently working on a short submission for this meeting and have a lot of the information in terms of a recent letter from Mr Matheson to Kwasi Kwarteng which I can use and include as an Annex. As you will be aware we have not been engaged on this Strategy so do not know exactly what will be included apart from what we have learned in the press.


I can use a lot of the information from the letter but would be also to include high level lines on :

Nuclear (<redacted>
Fracking (<redacted>)

Can I ask that you can send your contributions to me by 10.00am tomorrow Wednesday 6 April at the latest.

Apologies for the very short timescale I have just taken this on.

Kind regards

<redacted> <redacted> | Strategic Co-ordination Team Leader | Strategic Coordination
Unit
Directorate for Energy and Climate Change | Scottish Government |
 <redacted> [<redacted>](#)

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 22 June 2022 12:27
To: First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>
Cc: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser)
<John.McFarlane@gov.scot>; Huyton H (Harry) <Harry.Huyton@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Electricity generation FMQ due 4pm

Hello,

With apologies for the delay - Please find updated FMQ attached with new lines in respect to the article below.

I've cc'd SpAds as these lines have not yet been cleared.

NEW MINI REACTORS COULD BE BUILT IN SCOTLAND
The Scottish Government is clear in its opposition to new nuclear power stations based on current technologies

- Scottish Enterprise work with industry to grow Scotland's economy for the benefit of all, helping create high-quality jobs and a brighter future for every region
- This is a major advanced manufacturing opportunity with a major engineering company in Scotland that has significant technical capability
- It is recognised that this proposal would contain no nuclear materials and so would not be in conflict with existing energy and industry policy

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
On Behalf Of First Minister FMQs
Sent: 21 June 2022 10:46
To: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Cc: ET FMQ/PQ Mailbox <ETFMQPQ@gov.scot>; First Minister FMQs <FirstMinisterFMQs@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: Electricity generation FMQ due 4pm
Importance: High

Good morning,

Thank you for providing the attached brief for FMQs. Could you update the brief to reflect the following article and return a revised version to us by 4pm today please?

The Sunday Times (Scotland) 2 **Scotland eye mini nuclear reactors** A new generation of mini reactors could be built in Scotland despite the SNP's opposition to nuclear power. The Sunday Times has learnt that government body Scottish

Enterprise and Cavendish Nuclear, a subsidiary of Babcock International, is putting a bid together to locate a factory at Rosyth to make key elements for Rolls-Royce's Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) nuclear programme. The revelation that a Scottish government agency is helping make the

Thanks,

<redacted>

<redacted>

<redacted> (she/her)

Senior FMQ Officer

<redacted> | Senior FMQ Officer | First Minister's Policy and Delivery Unit | Scottish Government | St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | <redacted>

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

From: <redacted>@gov.scot; **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 04 October 2022 17:52

To: <redacted>@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
<CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; R (Ragne) <Ragne.Low@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot;
McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - Nuclear - Daily Mail

Hi <redacted>,

<redacted - regulation 10(4)(e) >

Thanks,
<redacted>

<redacted>
Deputy Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
CabSecNetZET@gov.scot
<redacted><redacted>

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From: <redacted>@gov.scot;

Sent: 04 October 2022 17:05

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
<CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; Low R (Ragne) <Ragne.Low@gov.scot>;
<redacted>@gov.scot; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser)
<John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - Nuclear - Daily Mail

Hi <redacted>

<redacted - regulation 10(4)(e) >

Thanks
<redacted>

From: <redacted>@gov.scot; **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 04 October 2022 16:39

To: <redacted>@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
<CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot;

<redacted>@gov.scot; Low R (Ragne) <Ragne.Low@gov.scot>;

<redacted>@gov.scot; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser)

<John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - Nuclear - Daily Mail

Hi <redacted>,

<redacted - regulation 10(4)(e) >

Thanks,
<redacted>

<redacted> | **Deputy Private Secretary**
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport – Michael Matheson
The Scottish Government | St Andrew’s House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG |
Mobile: <redacted> | **Email:** CabSecNetZET@gov.scot

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From: <redacted>@gov.scot;

Sent: 04 October 2022 15:48

To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
<CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot;

<redacted>@gov.scot; Low R (Ragne) <Ragne.Low@gov.scot>;

<redacted>@gov.scot; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser)

<John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Subject: For Clearance - Media Query - Nuclear - Daily Mail

Hi <redacted>, PO

The Daily Mail have asked us to reply to comments below from think tank Third Way, which says hitting net zero will be “more difficult and much more expensive” if technology such as nuclear is ruled out.

We’ve agreed the following with Policy and SpAds. Grateful for Mr Matheson’s clearance, please.

A Scottish Government Spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government is absolutely clear in our opposition to the building of new traditional nuclear fission energy plants in Scotland under current technologies. In addition to environmental and waste concerns, new nuclear power will take decades to become operational and is also very expensive, only adding to the huge pressures facing energy consumers right now.

“Already one of the cheapest forms of energy, wind ~~meanwhile~~ power has a vital role to play in supporting long-term affordability of our energy, alongside new and existing technologies such as hydrogen and hydro power.

“Scotland has some of the most extensive renewable generation capabilities in Europe and ensuring that we can support decarbonisation not only of Scotland but the rest of the UK through investment in our electricity grid is one of the main challenges in our net zero energy transformation. It is vital that industry, government and the regulator work together to enable timely investments while ensuring that the regulatory levers held by the UK Government drive down costs and increase benefits for customers and communities.”

Thanks
<redacted>

From: <redacted>@dailymail.co.uk
Sent: 04 October 2022 11:30
To: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: nuclear/net zero

Hi <redacted>,

As discussed, Josh Freed, senior vice-president for climate and energy at the US think tank Third Way, who has advised US Climate Envoy John Kerry on green policies, warned that net zero targets may be missed, bills could rise and there could be electricity shortages in the future unless new nuclear power stations are allowed in Scotland.

His main comments are copied below – I’d appreciate a response.

‘If Scotland doesn’t want to build nuclear, that is a decision for the government and the people of Scotland, but recognising also that across the border as England is ultimately going to build nuclear.

'Net zero is an ambitious target to try to achieve by 2050, let alone 2030. It becomes much more difficult and much more expensive if you start ruling out any of the net zero technologies.'

He said demand for electricity will continue to grow in the UK during the move to net zero, and said more green energy sources are needed to guarantee that can be met. On the possible overreliance on wind energy, he said: 'Not having as many different net zero sources as possible means there is a risk if the unfortunate or unforeseen events occur more often, and you run into a problem where there is not enough electricity when you need it, or prices go through the roof because you can't balance the different sources.'

'The better connecting generation that is created in England compared to generation in Scotland allows you to avoid some of those issues, but it just reinforces the need for nuclear across the UK, as well as hydro, onshore wind and offshore wind.'

Regards,

<redacted>

<redacted>

<redacted>

<redacted>

Scottish Daily Mail

<redacted>

Scottish Parliament

EDINBURGH

EH1 1SP

<redacted>

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From: <redacted>@gov.scot; **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport

Sent: 07 September 2022 17:19

To: <redacted>@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport <CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>

Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; Low R (Ragne) <Ragne.Low@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs <CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: For Clearance - Media Query - Nuclear Power - BBC/Times

Hi <redacted>,

<redacted - regulation 10(4)(e) >

Thanks,
<redacted>

A Scottish Government Spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government is absolutely clear in our opposition to the building of new traditional nuclear fission energy plants in Scotland under current technologies. In addition to environmental and waste concerns, new nuclear power will take decades to become operational and is also very expensive, only adding to the huge pressures facing energy consumers right now.

“Already one of the cheapest forms of energy, offshore wind meanwhile has a vital role to play in supporting long term affordability. As the world’s largest floating offshore wind leasing round, ScotWind puts us at the forefront of the global development of offshore wind and represents a massive step forward in our net zero transformation.

“Scotland already generates the equivalent of nearly 100% **of(?)** our energy from renewable sources and we have ~~the people~~ the people, skills and natural resources to become a renewables powerhouse.”

<redacted>
Deputy Private Secretary
Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
CabSecNetZET@gov.scot
<redacted><redacted>

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From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 07 September 2022 16:27
To: Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
<CabSecNetZET@gov.scot>
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; Low R (Ragne)
<Ragne.Low@gov.scot><redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>; McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Subject: For Clearance - Media Query - Nuclear Power - BBC/Times

Hi <redacted>, PO

The Times and BBC have asked for comment on Liz Truss's comments about nuclear power at PMQ's today – quote below.

We've agreed the following response with Policy and SpAds. Grateful for Mr Matheson's clearance, please.

A Scottish Government Spokesperson said:

“The Scottish Government is absolutely clear in our opposition to the building of new traditional nuclear fission energy plants in Scotland under current technologies. In addition to environmental and waste concerns, new nuclear power will take decades to become operational and is also very expensive, only adding to the huge pressures facing energy consumers right now.

“Already one of the cheapest forms of energy, offshore wind meanwhile has a vital role to play in supporting long term affordability. As the world's largest floating offshore wind leasing round, ScotWind puts us at the forefront of the global development of offshore wind and represents a massive step forward in our net zero transformation.

“Scotland already generates the equivalent of nearly 100% our energy from renewable sources and we have the people, the skills and natural resources to become a renewables powerhouse.”

Thanks
<redacted>

On 7 Sep 2022, at 14:14, <redacted>@gov.scot; - News and Current Affairs
<redacted@bbc.co.uk > wrote:

Hi <redacted>,

I appreciate you taking my call just now.

Yes just looking for a response, if any from the SG, on Liz Truss's comments at PMQ's re energy supply.

Her quotes as follows:

'I want to see us using more of our UK energy supply, including more oil and gas from the North Sea, and nuclear, and nuclear power in Scotland as well. And I hope I can count on the SNP's support for that.'

Many thanks,
<redacted>.

From: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 September 2022 13:25
To: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; Hogg A (Andrew) <Andrew.Hogg@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne)
<Ragne.Low@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SpAd View - PM's position on O&G/Energy - The Nine

<redacted - regulation 10(4)(e) >

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 07 September 2022 13:00
To: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; Hogg A (Andrew) <Andrew.Hogg@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne)
<Ragne.Low@gov.scot>; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SpAd View - PM's position on O&G/Energy - The Nine

Hi John

<redacted - regulation 10(4)(e)>

<redacted>

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 06 September 2022 15:45
To: McFarlane J (John) (Special Adviser) <John.McFarlane@gov.scot>
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; Hogg A
(Andrew) <Andrew.Hogg@gov.scot>; Low R (Ragne) <Ragne.Low@gov.scot>;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; Communications Net Zero & Rural Affairs
<CommunicationsNetZero&RuralAffairs@gov.scot>
Subject: SpAd View - PM's position on O&G/Energy - The Nine

<redacted - regulation 10(4)(e) >

Thanks
<redacted>

<redacted> **Communications: News (Net Zero & Energy)**
Senior Media Manager
Scottish Government, St Andrew's House
e: <redacted>
m: <redacted>

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 13 October 2022 09:26
To: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot;
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: RE: REMINDER: Request for Lines - CARES post-conference Questions

Hi <redacted> – some lines provided below as requested. Copying in <redacted> for sight of the quality assurance lines.

Thanks
<redacted>

<redacted> | Economy, Skills and Supply Chain, Heat in Buildings Division,
Scottish Government | T<redacted> | 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw,
Glasgow, G2 8LU

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 13 October 2022 08:51
To: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot;
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: REMINDER: Request for Lines - CARES post-conference Questions

Good morning all,

Just a gentle reminder that I would be grateful for contributory lines to the questions below by close of business, 13 October 2022.

Regards
<redacted>

From: <redacted>@gov.scot;
Sent: 11 October 2022 12:45
To: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
<redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Cc: <redacted>@gov.scot; <redacted>@gov.scot;
Subject: Request for Lines - Conference Questions
Importance: High

Hello,

Building on the success of the Mr Harvies speech during the CARES Annual Conference 2022 (the brief and speaking note found in the links below) SG have committed to respond to questions raised during the conference.

- CARES conference 2022 Brief - <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A40591764/details>
- CARES conference 2022 Speaking Note - <https://erdm.scotland.gov.uk:8443/documents/A40608820/details>

Below is a table questions raised and the names / teams I feel are best placed to respond. I would appreciate if those named could respond or pass on to someone who can with a view to responses being provided before **COP Thursday 14 October**.

Many thanks in advance.

<redacted>

Question	Action / Who to contact:	Draft Answers
<p><redacted></p> <p>We need stable electrical base load on our electricity grid. Renewables can provide energy when the wind is blowing or it is daylight. LNG, natural gas, oil and coal are fossil fuels which contribute to global warming.</p> <p>Nuclear can provide stable baseload in a sustainable manner (breeder reactors can also be used to make new fuel and have their nuclear fuel recycled).</p> <p>Can the Scottish Government start to embrace new nuclear power stations (particularly Small Modular Reactors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lines from Onshore Electricity, Strategy and Consents Eg. <redacted>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• While innovative in their smaller size and construction technique, Small Modular Reactors use the same nuclear fission technology as the power generating process you would find in larger traditional nuclear power plants and carry the same environmental concerns.• We don't support the building of any new nuclear fission power stations in Scotland under current technologies – be that a large station such as Hinkley Point C or Small Modular Reactors, that are still in the design and licencing stage.• A mixture of renewables, storage and carbon capture technology can support a

(SMRs)) as they are another form of energy which does not emit carbon dioxide and they help to provide a stable baseload for the grid and can help ensure that electricity is produced where needed (hence reducing transmission losses) as part of our transition to a resilient reliable net zero energy mix?

secure and decarbonised power sector in Scotland.

- Our priority continues to be to support energy efficiency, develop Scotland's huge renewable resource and to promote storage and flexibility.

<redacted – not in scope>

Regards

<redacted> (He/Him)

CARES Policy and Contracts | Heat Strategy Unit | Scottish Government
4th Floor | 5 Atlantic Quay | 150 Broomielaw Glasgow | G2 8LU |

<redacted>@gov.scot;

P Before you print think about the ENVIRONMENT

