

Equinor  
Wednesday 10 August, 15:30  
Microsoft Teams

**Present:** First Minister  
Anders Opedal, Equinor  
David Cairns, Equinor  
Jose Frey-Martinez, Equinor  
SG Officials

- Anders welcomed the meeting to discuss the Rosebank field. The Rosebank Environmental Statement was due to be published on 12 August. [REDACTED]
- Equinor want to be an energy transition company but they see a clear role for continued investment in oil and gas during the transition.
- They are focusing on 3 priority areas to help address concerns: climate change, energy security and just transition.
- On climate change they have looked at how to reduce emissions from the field. [REDACTED]
- Scope 1 emissions from the field will be lower than normal, it will put them in the top 20%
- On energy security this production will support both Scottish and European gas supply. Equinor stated that all of their gas goes to Europe and all oil is also currently now sold to European markets. With Rosebank Anders noted that countries like Scotland, UK and Norway can play a role in supporting security of supply across Europe. This has been a topic of discussion with EU leaders in recent months.
- On just transition Rosebank will support £6bn investment and will create over 1,000 jobs and 1,600 in the development phase. It will also help maintain skills in areas such as CCUS and Hydrogen. They have published research on this.
- Equinor plan to make final investment decision by spring 2023. Support for the field is important and they know it has to be scrutinised. They hope this field will set a new standard.
- First Minister welcomed the engagement and acknowledged the approach around addressing environmental considerations. FM outlined the importance of oil and gas companies also considering how to reduce emissions from the use of their products (scope 3 emissions)
- First Minister agreed on importance of oil and gas in just transition, particularly the skills transfer. The transition will not happen overnight. SG position is not currently saying that new drilling should never go ahead but that the Climate Compatibility Checkpoint process should go ahead to ensure consistency with the Paris Agreement. UKG have not set out the CCC process for fields already licensed. Scottish Government are undertaking analysis work as part of the revised Energy Strategy to look at Scotland's energy needs. UKCS is a mature basin and looking at what is required and will consider everything in context of that.

## COMMERCIAL SENSITIVE

- There is no simple position and want to ensure proper assessment undertaken. Individual field assessments are fine but they need to be considered as part of the bigger picture.
- Anders advised Equinor are an open and transparent company and know there will be a lot of debate around the field, a lot of NGOs are not supportive. The report published by the EIA did not consider geopolitics and the same debate is happening in Norway.
- Norwegian Minister met with EU last week to discuss. They are going to continue engagement with NGOs and politicians.
- First Minister stated that the key decision lies with UKG. Scottish Government are trying to look at production in totality and assess compatibility with the Paris 1.5 degrees. Trying to take a responsible approach as the climate crisis is real.
- Anders asked about differing view on Brexit in Scotland and dialogue between SG and EU on energy.
- First Minister confirmed there continues to be dialogue with the EU particularly around hydrogen as an example. Formal dialogue with the EU is now more complex given UK Govt approach to Brexit.
- Anders asked if there was any advice on Rosebank as they want to avoid a polarised debate.
- First Minister suggested they don't dismiss any opinions and ensure they engage properly and on the totality of the issues this raises. Suggested Equinor may want to encourage UKG to introduce CCC at development phase as this would help make case and demonstrate compatibility.
- It was agreed that engagement would continue.