

CALL WITH MS HYSLOP AND SIR IAN WOOD (ONE)
09 MARCH, 2021
12:00 – 12:45

PRESENT ON CALL

Ms Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Fair Work and Culture
Sir Ian Wood, Chairman, Opportunity North East
Jennifer Crow, CEO, Opportunity North East
[Redacted under section 38] Regional Economic Development
[Redacted under section 38] Regional Economic Development Policy Manager

NOTE OF CALL

SIW provided update on progress of the Energy Transition Zone, confirming UKG funding commitment of £27m has been announced. Discussed timing and rapid progress for SG approval of the FBC, and noted the welcome pace of the ETF; SG have been the first mover and enabled further funding. The green jobs in this space are of particular value.

FH agreed the leveraging of further investment and pace in delivery was part of the motivation for moving early last summer.

SIW discussed oil and gas jobs and depletion of employment levels in sectors like hospitality and tourism across the north east.

FH Noted extension of furlough is welcome, but is sheltering those likely to be most affected. OCEA are mapping furlough against claimant count to determine real impacts. Highlighted SG actions such as Young Persons Guarantee (YPG) which aim to support the national mission to ensure young people have the opportunity to be part of the successful recovery for Scotland. Confirmed YPG extends to 24 year olds, and involves internships and graduate training schemes.

Emphasised the value of looking at the particular impact in the north east, and see how YPG can be utilised. Noted how SIW's previous work Developing the Young Workforce influenced this work. Shared how co-ordinators leading on this work will be school across Scotland and thanked SIW for laying foundations and indicating his further support.

SIW Noted two areas to focus development of workforce: oil and gas and transition opportunities in Offshore Wind, Hydrogen and CCUS.

FH Agreed need for diverse range and focus on energy products, and discussion followed on how all strands of renewables bore opportunities, with **SIW** touching on how reducing the time to carry out licensing would help the transition move quickly and produce opportunities quicker.

JC Provided update on additional ONE activities, which included Seafood Transformation Project and the North East Adventure Tourism proposal, as well as two Aberdeen City Region Deal projects, Bio-Hub and SeedPod.

FH Thanked both for the update, noting engagement with Food & Drink Scotland and wider SG and Agencies alongside NMIS is very welcome. Discussed ONE's role and influence in the north east more generally, noting the Deal's role as an enabler but that there is a broader scope for placed based regeneration.

[Redacted under section 38]