

ANNEX A

The exceptions applied in this instance are:

A small number of documents have been withheld under regulations 10(4)(d) (material in the course of completion, unfinished documents, or incomplete data). This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in releasing the information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, this is outweighed by the greater public interest in allowing a private space for officials to consider draft content of letters to ensure factual and accurate information is released in the public domain for consumers, producers and retailers.

A small number of documents have been withheld under regulations 10(4)(e) (internal communication). This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in releasing the information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, this is outweighed by the greater public interest in allowing Scottish Government officials and ministers a private space to share free and frank views for the purpose of deliberation of any given policy.

Finally, some of the information has been redacted under Regulation 11 (Personal Data) as it contains personal information and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and in Section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018. This exception is not subject to the 'public interest test'.

ANNEX B

Question 1 - 'All briefing notes prepared for ministers, correspondence sent and received by ministers, including internal ones, about nuclear energy and power in Scotland between July 1 2023 and the date of this FOI?'

[OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

Sent: Monday, July 3, 2023 4:00 PM

To: Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>

Subject: Availability for a 30 minute meeting about a new nuclear energy startup in Scotland

Hi Ms Martin,

First of all, thank you for the reply to my email (attached).

While I understand it has been the Scottish government's position to be "opposed to the building of new nuclear stations using current technologies," the technology we are developing is meaningfully different from that supported by the Tories at Hinkley Point C or the SMR technology under development by Rolls Royce. Our technology is specifically designed to reduce costs, reduce deployment time, and minimize environmental impact by orders of magnitude compared to traditional nuclear power or even mature renewable technology such as wind and solar. Our technology lends itself very well to a high renewables energy system, and I am confident its advantages would become evident in a 30 minute introductory call or meeting. We are attracting significant investment from the United States and we would like to establish a home in Scotland that could lead to a lot of engineering and manufacturing job growth. Please reconsider the opportunity to meet and learn about how our technology could help Scotland's economy, its people, and its environment.

Best,

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

From: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

Sent: Saturday, August 5, 2023 3:37:26 PM

To: Grahame C (Christine), MSP <Christine.Grahame.msp@parliament.scot>; McAllan M (Màiri), MSP <Mairi.McAllan.MSP@Parliament.scot>; Slater L (Lorna), MSP <Lorna.Slater.MSP@Parliament.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]; [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]carol.monaghan.mp@parliament.uk <carol.monaghan.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: SNP and Nuclear - where does the SNP stand on this?

CAUTION: *This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.*

Dear Christine and Mairi,

I am forwarding to you the House of Commons Report on Nuclear Power in the UK.

I fundamentally disagree with the need for nuclear as I do not believe it is required, the baseload argument is flawed, the cost is horrendous compared with renewables and nuclear is not by any stretch of the imagination “green” though the Government would try to have us believe it is. Then there is the whole question of security of fuel as set out below.

What disappoints me about this report is that a member of the Committee, Carol Monaghan, is and SNP MP but there is no dissenting report from the SNP member. I thought that the SNP were against nuclear but I am clearly wrong in this belief. One of the fundamental argument in favour of Scottish Independence is that Scotland will be free from nuclear and so able to focus resources correctly on renewables. The drive towards net zero is being hampered by the focus on nuclear which is diverting resources into an expensive diversion to the detriment of long term high cost electricity and slowing through the lack, for example, of investment in the national grid slowing the rate at which true renewables can connect to the grid. Having an SNP MP supporting and endorsing this report shows that the SNP really are not understanding the issues and need to a grip on what is an existential threat, that of climate change, and yet are not getting to grip with the solution.

Carol Monaghan is clearly not understanding the issues (unfortunately this also applies to many MPs and though I try my best to educate my local MP David Mundell he does not “get it” and blithely believes in the fallacy of baseload need). The pursuit of nuclear when renewables such as offshore wind, with proper support could deliver lower cost environmentally friendly energy more quickly and at lower cost than nuclear are being starved of funds see <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/aug/05/uk-offshore-wind-at-tipping-point-as-funding-crisis-threatens-industry> . Of course what will happen is that the UK wind industry will collapse and then in a few years the UK, which has amongst the best wind resources in the world, will be scrabbling to build interconnectors to Europe to import renewable power from Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, not to mention the Republic of Ireland (though small at the moment will expand rapidly and is building interconnectors direct to mainland Europe).

How can the SNP expect to garner support when they make such fundamental errors of judgement? Looking at the list of people giving evidence the list is high skewed towards people from the nuclear industry which has a vested interest in continuing to build nuclear power stations and put a favourable gloss on the prospects for fusion technology and small nuclear reactors. We need not here go into why funds are being diverted from known solutions into chasing high risk far off dreams.

I expect a reply as to why the SNP is supporting nuclear and locking Scottish electricity consumers into long term high cost power with serious environmental consequences.

Regards

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[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]



[OUT OF SCOPE]

Science, Innovation and Technology Committee House of Commons

Embargo: not for publication in any form before 00.01 Monday 31 July 2023

Strategic plan needed to deliver nuclear power and close the power gap *The Science, Innovation and Technology Committee publishes landmark report on the future of nuclear power in the UK*

In a major report published today, the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee calls on the Government to develop and publish a Nuclear Strategic Plan to turn high level aspirations into concrete steps to deliver new nuclear.

The Committee says that the Government is right to look to nuclear power to meet our future electricity needs and that this requires a substantial programme of nuclear new build.

But the Report warns that the Government target of 24 GW of nuclear generating capacity by 2050 and the aspiration to deploy a new nuclear reactor every year are more of a wish list than the comprehensive detailed and specific strategy that is required to ensure such capacity is built.

The Government's stated aim of 24 GW of nuclear capacity is ambitious: it is almost double the highest installed nuclear capacity the UK has ever achieved. It could involve new gigawatt-scale nuclear power, small modular reactors (SMRs) and advanced modular reactors (AMRs), and further development of nuclear fusion. It would require substantial progress on technologies, financing, skills, regulation, decommissioning and waste management.

The repeated requirement from witnesses across the nuclear industry was for a much clearer and more concrete strategic plan than currently exists: one which integrates commitments from a wide range of stakeholders and which is designed to go beyond the lifetime of any single government if it is to break out of the decades-long intermittency of UK nuclear energy policy. The Committee recommends that such a comprehensive Nuclear Strategic Plan should be drawn up, consulted upon and agreed before the end of the current Parliament.

Among other findings in the 110-page report:

A clearer role for Great British Nuclear

The role of the recently launched Great British Nuclear is unclear beyond its initial task of running a selection between competing SMR developers.

Establishing the right mix of technologies



There is ambiguity over what proportion of the Government's 24 GW target by 2050 will be met by new gigawatt-scale power plants, as opposed to advanced nuclear technologies. The Committee says a Nuclear Strategic Plan must provide clarity over what proportion of the 24 GW target by 2050 will be met by new gigawatt-scale power plants and how much is intended to be met by advanced nuclear technologies like the Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs) and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs).

Financing of new nuclear

The Government has obtained legislative approval for a Regulatory Asset Base (RAB) model of financing new nuclear power, in which consumers - and potentially taxpayers - take on construction risk. So far, the Government has not published financial figures which allow the cost of this risk transfer to be known. The Government must publish figures, before signing contracts for new gigawatt-scale nuclear, which allow a proper assessment of value for money to be made, including setting out the level and potential cost of construction risk to be borne by the consumer or taxpayer.

Small Modular Reactors

A Nuclear Strategic Plan should answer the questions of what deployment of SMRs the Government wants to see; whether technologies will be from a single supplier or multiple suppliers; what sites should SMRs be located at; and what financial model would be used to pay for the contribution of SMRs to electricity supply. Each of these questions will require a clear answer if vendors are to be able to take decisions on whether and when to take the next steps towards eventually deploying SMRs.

Skills

If the Government's 24 GW target is to be met, the current nuclear workforce of over 65,000 people will need to more than double, requiring between 75,000 and 150,000 new recruits.

Attracting and training the workforce which is required to meet the Government's ambition for nuclear, needs co-ordinated actions by the whole sector: Government, existing nuclear operators, developers, regulators and educational institutions. We have now reached the point in which high level goals need to be turned into specific commitments by individual organisations by particular dates.

Decommissioning

The incremental waste generated by new nuclear power plants is not likely to be a material factor in decisions on approving new gigawatt-scale plants, but it is imperative that a clear understanding of the waste consequences of new nuclear technologies, how it will be dealt with, and at what cost, should be part of these decisions.

The experience and expertise which the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has in civil nuclear decommissioning is more than any other country in the world, as a result of the UK being the world's first civil nuclear nation. The NDA's expertise's can be deployed globally, as countries who were later in constructing civil nuclear power stations than the UK seek to safely and economically decommission their reactors. This is a tremendous export opportunity for the UK's expertise which can raise revenue for the NDA and therefore taxpayers.

The NDA should establish, with the involvement of Government, a long-term plan to expand this international work while maintaining a thorough and dependable service within the UK.

Nuclear fusion

The UK is a leading nation in fusion research and development and since 2010 UK public investment has amounted to £970 million, although it has yet to produce a commercially deployable source of energy. Fusion is highly unlikely to make a material contribution to electricity generation in time to contribute to net zero by 2050, but in recent months breakthroughs have been made. The Committee concludes that this is not the time to abandon the long-standing commitment to fusion: instead this should demonstrate a long-term approach, giving confidence and stability to investors and international partners.

Chair of the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee, Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, said:

“The Government is right to identify nuclear power as an important contributor to meeting our future electricity needs. It has stretching ambitions to achieve 24 GW of nuclear power by 2050. This would be almost double the highest level of nuclear generation that the UK has ever attained. The only way to achieve this is to translate these very high-level aspirations into a comprehensive, concrete and detailed Nuclear Strategic Plan which is developed jointly with the nuclear industry, which enjoys long term cross-party political commitment and which therefore offers dependability for private and public investment decisions.

“Done right, the UK can be in the vanguard of delivering nuclear innovation, jobs and clean, affordable and reliable energy. But there is now an urgent need to turn hopes into actions.”/ENDS

Notes:

Full information including details of the six public evidence sessions and nearly 70 written evidence submissions from public, private, research and third sector organisations and individuals that have informed this inquiry can be found here: [Delivering nuclear power](#)

Media enquiries: [REDACTED UNDER REGULATION 11(2)]

Committee Membership: Rt Hon Greg Clark (MP for Tunbridge Wells, Conservative) is Chair of the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee
Follow the Committee on Twitter and visit the Committee’s website.

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[Delivering nuclear power - Reports, special reports and government responses - Committees - UK Parliament](#)

From: CHAPMAN, Douglas <douglas.chapman.mp@parliament.uk>
Sent: Monday, August 7, 2023 12:20 PM
To: neil.gray.msp@parliament.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot>
Subject: Re-booting the National Energy Company for Scotland with Geothermal Energy

Dear Neil,

I'm delighted to send you a copy of our new discussion paper published this month entitled 'Re-Booting the National Energy Company for Scotland with Geothermal Energy'.

[Re-Booting The National Energy Company for Scotland With Geothermal Energy – Common Weal](#)

This paper is a collaboration between myself, the Common Weal think tank, Alex Neil, Glasgow Caledonian University, Dr Keith Baker and my researcher, Ali Anderson and argues that we could use our devolved powers on heat and planning to re-boot our ambitions for a National Energy Company with a focus first on geothermal potential.

We believe that the ideas put forward in this initial paper would be popular with the general public as well as party members who wholeheartedly support a NEC for Scotland and as a pragmatic response to the current energy and cost of living crisis.

Getting geothermal off the ground through a National Energy Company means keeping local sources of energy for the benefit of local communities, truly tackling the scourge of fuel poverty in an energy rich country, kick starting job and reskilling opportunities, while addressing the climate crisis with a focus on the decarbonisation of heat.

Taking this initial approach as a blueprint for success, we argue that next steps would involve working in consultation with communities across the nation to find the best renewable energy fit for their bespoke needs where geothermal does not apply.

I firmly believe that re-igniting our ambitions for a National Energy Company as the perfect vehicle to ensure that Scots can be both stakeholders and guardians of our energy resources, for the good of our people and for the good of the environment, matches our values and aspirations as a nation.

I look forward to hearing what you think.

Kind regards,

Douglas

Douglas Chapman MP
Dunfermline and West Fife

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From: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Monday, August 14, 2023 4:06 PM

To: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gov.scot[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: MiCase 202300370802 - Request for contribution by noon on 15 August

Hi [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

Here's lines for nuclear. If there's anything else you need let me know.

- **The Scottish Government does not support the building of new nuclear fission power stations in Scotland under current technologies.**
- New nuclear power would take years, if not decades, to become operational and would also be expensive – pushing up household bills.
- Significant growth in renewables, storage, hydrogen and carbon capture provide the best pathway to net zero by 2045 and will deliver a climate friendly energy system that delivers affordable, resilient and clean energy supplies for Scotland's households, business and communities.
- Whilst Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are innovative in their size and construction technique, they use the same method of electricity generation as traditional nuclear fission. This means the same environmental concerns as traditional nuclear power plants and their economic competitiveness is still to be proven in practice, once deployed.
- Under the current contract awarded by the UK Government to Hinkley Point C, the electricity that will be generated will be priced at £92.50 per megawatt hour [using 2012 prices]. In contrast, electricity being generated from offshore wind is currently priced at £37.65 per megawatt hour. [ref ESJTP- CFD allocation round 4, in 2022 prices]
- Globally, the price of nuclear is estimated to be almost \$250MW/h, around five times the cost per MW/h of onshore wind (under \$50MW/h).[11](#)
- Renewables have not benefited from the same level of direct investment by the UK Government. Nor have other technologies with high capital expenditure costs, such as Pumped Hydro Storage, been able to utilise appropriate market mechanisms to facilitate deployment.

Thanks

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

Policy Officer | Negative Emissions Technologies | Energy and Climate Change Directorate

4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gov.scot

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

[OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gov.scot>

Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:08 AM

To: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]gov.scot>; [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gov.scot>

Subject: MiCase 202300370802 - Request for contribution by noon on 15 August

Hi [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)],

I have been assigned the attached MiCase which is a discussion paper about re-booting the National Energy Company for Scotland with geothermal energy. The paper covers a number of issues so I am e-mailing relevant colleagues requesting contributions.

[REDACTED: REGULATION 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED: REGULATION 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)] (she / her)

Scottish Government Onshore and Subsurface Systems Policy Unit, Energy Industries Division, 4th floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU. Telephone [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

Minister for Energy and the Environment
Ministear airson Cumhachd agus na h-Àrainneachd
Gillian Martin MSP/BPA a b c d
T : 0300 244 4000
E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Douglas Chapman MP
douglas.chapman.mp@parliament.uk

Our Reference: 202300370802

Your Reference: Re-booting the National Energy Company for Scotland with Geothermal Energy

17 August 2023

Dear Douglas,

Thank you for your e-mails of 7 August 2023 to the First Minister and the Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy about the discussion paper 'Re-booting the National Energy Company for Scotland with Geothermal Energy'. I am replying as many of the issues in the discussion paper fall within my portfolio.

These issues are key to the delivery of a fair and secure zero carbon energy system for Scotland and the Scottish Government is currently progressing these with our delivery partners and stakeholders.

Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan

The discussion paper sets out the need for an energy plan which focusses on social justice, sustainability, resilience and fairness for all. Scotland has the skills, talent and natural resources with which to become a global renewables powerhouse. The Scottish Government is making excellent progress in transforming the energy sector. Our draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, published on 10 January 2023, sets out our vision to achieve an energy system that delivers affordable, resilient and clean energy supplies. The consultation on the draft Strategy closed on 9 May 2023 and we have received a very high level of responses. We have commissioned an independent analysis of the consultation responses and the final version of the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan will be published once we have conducted a thorough review of the consultation responses and engaged with the full range of stakeholders.

Our draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan also sets out the areas in which the UK Government needs to take action and work with the Scottish Government under the current constitutional settlement to deliver Scotland's full energy potential. With reference to the UK Government's plans to invest in nuclear power, the Scottish Government does not support the building of new nuclear fission power stations in Scotland under current technologies. Significant growth in renewables, storage, hydrogen and carbon capture provide the best pathway to net zero by 2045 and will deliver a climate friendly energy system that delivers affordable, resilient and clean energy supplies for Scotland's households, business and communities.

We agree that the wholesale electricity market needs reformed, particularly to allow the low operating cost of renewables to flow through to consumers' bills, to deliver transmission charging reform and to ensure sustained investment in renewables at the necessary scale and pace to deliver net zero. Any reform proposals need to be managed in a way that does not create market uncertainty and risk jeopardising the very significant levels of investment needed in renewables.

Consumer impacts - especially for those in fuel poverty or in other vulnerable circumstances – should be a central concern of electricity market reform. We are calling for a coherent and joined up approach between wholesale and retail market reform to ensure that good consumer outcomes are embedded from the outset. It is vital that reforms are designed and implemented in a way that supports the timely delivery of our just transition objectives and net zero targets.

The Scottish Government has repeatedly called on the UK Government to decouple the market price of renewables and low carbon electricity from the cost of gas. The UK Government's intention to consult on how to rebalance the price of gas and electricity is a step forward. Market reforms must ensure consumers benefit from the low cost of renewables and are no longer exposed to volatile wholesale gas prices. We aim to set out a

view on what “good” electricity market arrangements look like for Scotland in the final Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan.

Heat and Energy Efficiency Scotland

We are committed to maximising the public benefits of our renewables revolution and will explore all options open to us to do so. We are also committed to securing a just transition to a net zero economy for Scotland and have established Heat and Energy Efficiency Scotland as a virtual agency, which will act as a stepping stone to a dedicated body, to be established by 2025. The virtual agency will accelerate the transformational change required in how we heat and use energy in our homes and buildings. A national public energy company that is involved in major energy generation would only be possible in an independent Scotland where we had full powers over the energy market and full access to borrowing.

Scotland’s geothermal potential

Turning to geothermal, the discussion paper refers to the findings of research commissioned by the Scottish Government, in 2013, into Scotland’s deep geothermal potential. The report identified significant potential in Scotland’s abandoned mineworkings, hot sedimentary aquifers and hot rocks.

Since the publication of the research findings, the Scottish Government has been working with stakeholders to better understand, and raise awareness of this potential.

We agree with the discussion paper that, since geothermal energy is not subject to seasonal variations coalfield areas. The Heat in Buildings Strategy recognises that deep geothermal energy is not yet well developed in Scotland but has a potential role to play in heat decarbonisation in some areas. The Strategy also commits to continued exploration of this potential. The Scottish Government works closely with its delivery partners, promoting funding opportunities for low carbon energy projects, such as geothermal, and the availability of data. or weather, it could provide a stable, local energy source for communities, such as those living in former coalfield areas. The Heat in Buildings Strategy recognises that deep geothermal energy is not yet well developed in Scotland but has a potential role to play in heat decarbonisation in some areas. The Strategy also commits to continued exploration of this potential. The Scottish Government works closely with its delivery partners, promoting funding opportunities for low carbon energy projects, such as geothermal, and the availability of data.

The discussion paper highlights the importance of the availability of sub-surface data in helping improve understanding of the role which geothermal can play in decarbonising the heat in our homes and businesses. The Scotland Heat Map is an online resource for assessing heat demand and supply opportunities across Scotland. The tool features a wide range of datasets, including sub-surface data from the Coal Authority (CA) and British Geological Survey (BGS), which can assist stakeholders identify low carbon heating opportunities, including deep geothermal. In addition, the BGS’ Glasgow Observatory regularly releases datasets from its investigation of the low-temperature, minewater heat energy and potential heat storage resources at its research facility in the east end of Glasgow. As stated in the discussion paper, Scotland had two minewater geothermal heating developments in operation – in Shettleston and Lumphinnans - for many years. Although neither scheme is still running, much can be learned from the experience of the housing associations which ran the schemes for approximately 15 years and the CA is engaging with MPs and MSPs, local authorities and private companies across Great Britain to raise awareness of minewater heat opportunities.

Heat networks

About 20% of Scotland's carbon emissions come from heating our buildings. Meeting our 2030 interim climate change target will need more than one million Scottish homes to change to a zero-carbon heating system. In March 2022 we published the Heat Networks Delivery Plan, which outlines how the provisions of the Heat Networks (Scotland) Act 2021 (the 2021 Act), and any other supporting policies, will contribute to increasing the use of heat networks in Scotland and meeting the statutory targets. In addition, it outlines how progress will be measured and the expected contribution that heat networks will make towards meeting the emission reduction targets. The 2021 Act will create the regulatory stability needed to unlock the potential of heat networks, enabling the sector to grow at pace and make a full contribution to net zero. Our ambition is to put in place secondary legislation and guidance to create a functioning regulatory regime for heat networks during 2024.

We recognise that as we transition to a net-zero economy it will become increasingly important that we use resources efficiently. This includes maximising the use of recoverable or waste heat, which at present goes unused, minewater heat being one such example.

The £300 million Scotland's Heat Network Fund makes capital grant funding available to the public and private sector and offers long-term support to enable the rollout of new zero emission heat networks and communal heating systems, as well as the expansion and decarbonisation of existing heat networks across Scotland.

We also provide loan funding through the District Heating Loan Fund which has been available since 2015 and provides capital loans for zero direct emission heat networks in order to overcome a range of infrastructural issues and help towards implementation costs of heat network projects. We have recently launched the Heat Network Support Unit to support the growth of heat networks by addressing key challenges in the pre-capital stages of heat network development and building capacity across the public sector to deliver successful projects. The most recent report on our support for new district heating networks was published on 4 August 2023. A number of feasibility studies are being supported and these will consider all opportunities to utilise renewable heat sources, including minewater geothermal.

Heat pumps

Heat pump manufacturing is one of the priorities of the Scottish Government's Supply Chain Development Programme, which has examined opportunities in both domestic scale and large scale heat pumps. Scotland has a strong foundation on which to build our manufacturing supply chain with multiple Scottish based companies already in a strong market position (e.g. Mitsubishi Electric/Star Refrigeration/Sunamp).

Our partner agency, Scottish Enterprise, has established a National Programme for Heat Decarbonisation and is actively working with industry through the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service to support Scottish companies moving into this sector. Heat pumps are already being used to provide heat to district heating networks in Scotland, including a large scale installation at Queen's Quay in Clydebank and a distributed heat pump design at the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District in Renfrewshire. Our Heat in Buildings Supply Chains Delivery Plan, backed by the £17.6m Green Heat Innovation Support Programme, sets out practical steps that we are taking to support the growth of the green heat sector.

Summary

I hope this helps clarify how the Scottish Government has been working with stakeholders and delivery partners on many issues raised in the discussion paper, including:

- Development of an Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan to help maximise a just transition to net zero for our economy, communities, business and workers.
- Improving our understanding of Scotland's sub-surface and exploring the role which geothermal could play in some communities, decarbonising our homes and businesses.
- Supporting Scotland's current, and future, workforce to develop the skills needed for the net zero transition.
- Promoting heat networks and heat pumps as two of the main solutions for decarbonising heating in Scotland.

Yours sincerely,
GILLIAN MARTIN

From: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 31, 2023 12:19 PM
To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>
Subject: Spent Nuclear Waste

Mr.Patrick Harvie, MSP

Dear Mr.Harvie,

Can you tell me please how the Green Party / SNP propose to eliminate nuclear waste?

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

[OUT OF SCOPE]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]@gmail.com>
To: Martin.MSP@parliament.scot
Cc:
Bcc:
Date: Mon, 28 Aug 2023 16:45:44 +0100
Subject: Nuclear Power
Hi Gillian

I have a question on Nuclear power for you. With Torness to be shut two years earlier by EDF what is the policy of the SNP government to compensate and replace the power to be lost, ie, 6,679.35 GWhr of Electricity, given that it was already extended by seven years and due to cease on 2030 .

As the current policy of the present government is not to allow the construction of any new power stations. This will subvert any use of the availability of small independent nuclear power stations to be provided by the UK parliament.. Anyway at the moment, there is no completion date available for these projects or numbers to become available.

What is the intention of your government on this loss of electricity which was always on the grid and a constant supply for power to Scotland.

A prompt reply would be appreciated.

Regards

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

Gillian Martin MSP
Minister for Energy and the
Environment
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

24 October 2023

Dear Gillian,

Nuclear RAB Consultation on industry code and licence modifications

I am writing to consult with you on Nuclear Regulated Asset Base (“RAB”) industry codes and licence modifications.

The Nuclear Energy (Financing) Act 2022 (“the Act”) makes provision for the implementation of a RAB funding model to finance new nuclear energy generation projects. The Nuclear Regulated Asset Base Model (Revenue Collection) Regulations 2023 (“the Regulations”) made under the powers in Part 2 of the Act set out the detailed mechanics of how the revenue stream would operate to ensure a consistent flow of revenues between electricity suppliers and nuclear companies benefiting from the RAB model.

Section 29(1) of the Act gives the Secretary of State powers to make modifications to Transmission and Distribution Licences, and the industry codes maintained in accordance with these licences so that the revenue stream can function as intended. Before making modifications using the powers in the Act, the Secretary of State is required to consult with the persons named in Section 29(4) of the Act, to seek their views on the modification proposals.

A fully functioning revenue stream is essential in establishing the RAB model so it could be used by Sizewell C – as the first project to be designated as capable of using the model – and potentially other nuclear projects. We have assessed that using RAB for new nuclear projects is likely to result in better value for money to consumers than the Contract for

Difference model by reducing the cost of project finance, the biggest driver of new nuclear project costs.

The link to the consultation document can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nuclear-regulated-asset-base-rab-industry-code-and-licence-modifications>

The consultation period starts today and will run for 6 weeks, consultees are invited to submit responses by the close of the consultation on 5 December 2023.

We welcome the opportunity to support consultees in developing their consultation response. Should there be any matters you or officials would like to discuss, please email us at rabrevenueconsultation@energysecurity.gov.uk and we will be in touch to set this up.

I am writing in similar terms to colleagues in the Welsh Government.

Yours aye,

Andrew Bowie MP
Minister for Nuclear and Networks

Minister for Energy and the Environment

What	Parliamentary Statement: Vision for Scotland's Future Energy System
Where	Scottish Parliament
When	Thursday 28 September 2023, 14:25-14:55 10 minute speech followed by 20 minutes of questions

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Nuclear

- The Scottish Government does not support the building of new nuclear fission power stations under current technologies.
- New nuclear power would take years, if not decades, to become operational and would also be expensive – pushing up household bills.
- As set out in our draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan, significant growth in renewables, storage, hydrogen and carbon capture provide the best pathway to net zero by 2045 and will deliver a climate friendly energy system that delivers affordable, resilient and clean energy supplies for Scotland's households, business and communities.
- While Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are innovative in size and construction technique, they use the same method of electricity generation as traditional nuclear fission. This means the same environmental concerns as traditional nuclear power plants and their economic competitiveness is still to be proven in practice, once deployed.
- Existing nuclear is expensive: under the current contract awarded by the UK Government to Hinkley Point C, the electricity that will be generated will be priced at £92.50 per

megawatt hour [using 2012 prices]. In contrast, wind is one of the cheapest forms of energy. Electricity being generated from offshore wind is currently priced at £37.35 per megawatt hour. [ref ESJTP- CfD allocation round 4, in 2022 prices].

- **While the UK Government continues to pour money into new nuclear via this finance model, there continues to be a relative underinvestment in renewable technologies such as offshore wind. The absence of offshore wind from the latest Contract for Difference bidding round signals that the UK Government has failed to deliver an auction that satisfactorily supports the rapid acceleration of the offshore wind sector in Scotland.**

Question 5 - All briefings prepared for ministers, correspondence received and sent by the Scottish Government, including internal ones, about Rosebank between August 1 and the date of this FOI

Factual Briefing – Equinor and the Rosebank Field

Equinor is a Norwegian multinational energy and petrochemicals company, with nearly 21,126 people employed worldwide in 2021 and approximately 650 employees in the UK.

- Produce on average 2,079 Million barrels of oil equivalent (boe) per day.
- Are a vertically integrated company – i.e. it is active in exploration, production, refining, distribution, petrochemicals and trading. Equinor is present in around 30 countries around the world, operating in North and South America, Africa, Asia, Europe - and Norway.
- Equinor have three British onstream projects; Mariner, Utgard and Barnacle. Mariner production began in 2019, with over £6 Billion of investment supporting an estimated 700 jobs.
- Equinor every year typically supplies 20-22 Billion cubic metres of natural gas to the UK which covers over 25 % of UK gas demand. Their Yorkshire storage facility provides around 11% of the UK's storage capacity.

[REDACTED: REGULATION 10 (4) (e)]

EQUINOR AND ROSEBANK – A briefing note

We hope that you find this briefing note on Equinor and the Rosebank project useful. It sets out the key facts of the project. We would be happy to provide further material, and contact details are given at the bottom of this paper.

Equinor in the UK

Equinor is Norway's largest company and has been supplying energy to the UK for 40 years. Today, Equinor supplies 29% of the UK's gas, and 15% of the UK's oil. Equinor has invested across the energy transition in the UK, from the world's first floating offshore windfarm in Scotland to the world's largest windfarm in Dogger Bank. By 2030, Equinor will supply around 7 million UK households with green electricity from our offshore wind farms. Equinor is developing carbon capture and storage and hydrogen projects across the UK, including in Teesside, the Humber and Peterhead. Equinor operates the Mariner oil field, which began production in 2019. Equinor is currently working with the UK government in developing plans to invest over £10 billion in the UK by 2030, in total creating over 5,000 high-quality jobs. For every £1 we plan to invest in the UK in oil and gas we aim to spend over £2 in renewables, CO2 capture and storage, hydrogen and battery storage. Already today, more Equinor employees in the UK work with renewables, CCS and hydrogen than oil and gas. We will help decarbonise British industry.

Equinor's climate targets are aligned with those of the Norwegian Government, and to the Paris Agreement. In 2021 Equinor paid \$8.9bn in tax worldwide, and is the second highest tax paying company in the world.

Rosebank and the UK's Climate Targets

The Rosebank oil and gas field is included in the North Sea Transition Authority's production outlook upon which the UK's Climate Change Committee's sixth carbon budget "Path to Net Zero" is based. The Rosebank oil and gas field is being developed in compliance with the North Sea Transition deal, an agreement between the UK government and the offshore industry. While the world and the UK will use less oil and gas going forward, today 76% of the UK's energy needs are met by oil and gas. The Climate Change Committee forecasts that even in 2050 the UK's oil and gas demand will be approximately 400 million barrels of oil equivalent per year. The emissions from Rosebank have been included in emission projections published by the UK government. Approving Rosebank does not increase the UK's projected emissions.

The North Sea Transition Deal is clear that while there is a continued, though over time reducing, need for oil and gas, the remaining demand for oil and gas must be met with the lowest emissions possible. Our ambition is to use renewable electricity as a power source on Rosebank – which could be a first in the UK. The production vessel has been designed to be electrification-ready and Equinor is collaborating with government and industry to deliver a solution for power from shore to Rosebank and nearby fields to minimise carbon emissions from production. Electrification would lower the lifetime upstream CO2 intensity from Rosebank from 12kg CO2 per barrel – already amongst the lowest emissions in the UK - to about 3kg, which would be among the lowest of any oil and gas installations in the world.

Rosebank and Energy Security

Rosebank will contribute to Scotland's and the UK's energy security, and will enable the UK to support Europe's energy security. When it starts producing in 2026/7 the gas from the field will be delivered to the UK, and will be enough to power Aberdeen for the lifetime of the field. The oil will be sold on the open market, and the most likely destination for that oil is the continent of Europe. Today, 98% of Equinor's oil

production is sold in Europe. At a time when Europe is trying to wean itself off Russian oil and gas, Rosebank will help, Rosebank will be an important contribution to the continent's energy security.

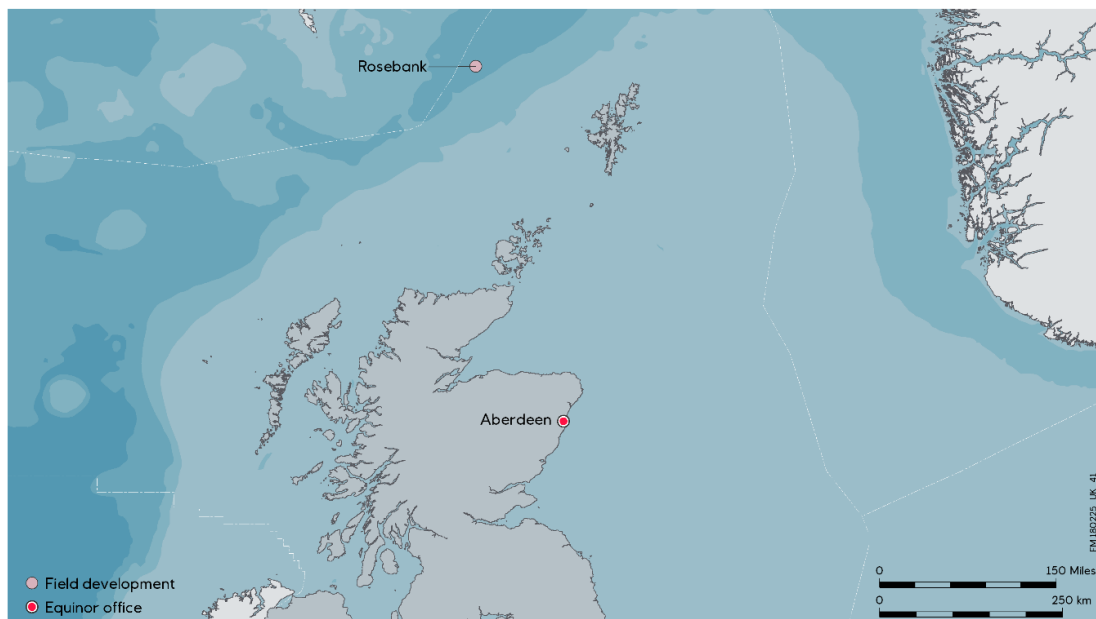
equinor

Rosebank and the Economy

According to an independent socioeconomic report by Wood Mackenzie and Voar Energy, Rosebank is estimated to create £8.1 billion of total direct investment over the lifetime of the field, of which 78% is likely to be invested in UK-based businesses. It is expected to support around 1,600 jobs during the height of the construction phase of the project, and approximately 450 UK-based jobs during the lifetime of the field. Those jobs will ensure that Scotland and the UK retain the skills needed for the energy sector of the future, from storing CO2 to hydrogen.

Rosebank – practical details

The Rosebank field is located around 130 kilometres north-west of Shetland in approximately 1,100 metres of water depth. Total recoverable resources are estimated at over 300 million barrels of oil, with Phase 1 targeting estimated 245 million barrels of oil. The field will be developed with subsea wells tied back to a redeployed Floating Production Storage and Offloading vessel (FPSO), with start-up planned in 2026-2027. Oil will be transported to refineries by shuttle tankers, while gas will be exported through the West of Shetland Pipeline system to mainland Scotland. The capacity of the redeployed FPSO will be approx. 70,000 barrels of oil per day.



Contact details and other background information

- [Rosebank oil and gas field - Equinor](#)
- Social and Economic Report on Rosebank:
<https://cdn.sanity.io/files/h61q9gi9/global/0c0ac22fa94009344190f5cdad065ba88b4404ed.pdf?rosebank-socioeconomic-report-equinor.pdf>
- To contact Equinor: equinoruk@equinor.com



FMQ Brief

27 Sept: UKG approve Rosebank. Cab Sec WEFWE agreed statement in Annex A. Further reaction included in Annex B

18 Sept: On GMS Cab Sec Just Transition said on Rosebank: *“it's an evidence-based approach that we want to see taken by UK government, including a very strict climate compatibility test. And if Rosebank can't meet a strict climate compatibility test, I see no reason why it should go ahead”*.

12 Sept: At Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee Cab Sec WEFWE was questioned by Labour's Monica Lennon MSP and Mark Ruskell MSP respectively on the Scottish Government's oil and gas policy, position on Rosebank; and its intention to join the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance (BOGA).

7 Sept: Media enquiry: Open FoES letter to FM on Rosebank calling for FM to 'get off the fence'.

We are disappointed that the UK Government has given approval to Rosebank while our concerns remain unaddressed.

- I have been clear that the UK Government was wrong to approve this oil field.
- The majority of what is extracted from Rosebank will go overseas and not necessarily contribute to our domestic energy security. Around 80% of oil extracted from the UK Continental Shelf is exported overseas.
- While some of this oil may come back to the UK after being refined abroad, it is not clear how much this will be, or the impact it will have on our energy security.
- Additionally, as prices for oil and gas are set globally, domestic fuel bills will not be reduced by this decision.
- The unlimited extraction of fossil fuels is not consistent with Scotland's ambitious climate obligations but we also have to ensure a planned and fair transition that leaves no one behind.
- Our focus must be meeting our energy security needs, reducing emissions and ensuring a just transition for our oil and gas workforce as North Sea resources decline.
- The Scottish government is absolutely committed to a just transition - and we are not waiting - we are already acting, for example, through our ten year £500 million just transition fund, taking workers with us on our journey to net zero and working alongside trade unions.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

[REDACTED: REGULATION 10 (4)(e)]

The unlimited extraction of fossil fuels is not consistent with Scotland's ambitious climate obligations but we also have to ensure a planned and fair transition that leaves no one behind.

- With so much at stake, it is vital that we take an evidence-based approach to the energy transition. That is why we are calling for a robust and transparent climate compatibility test to be applied to all new developments.
- The Scottish Government has made our position clear, we are committed to a just transition for Scotland's energy sector. Our focus, as outlined in the draft Strategy, must be meeting our energy security needs, reducing emissions and ensuring a just transition for our oil and gas workforce as North Sea resources decline.

Decisions on oil and gas exploration and licensing remain reserved to the UK Government.

- We have previously called on the UK Government to hold a four nations' discussion to agree the Climate Compatibility Checkpoint process – a call which was ignored.
- It is disappointing that the Climate Compatibility Checkpoint introduced by the UK Government is not transparent and lacks teeth, demonstrating that the UK Government is not serious about the climate crisis.
- Instead of licensing more fossil fuel extraction, the UK Government should be encouraging investment in renewables and supporting a just transition for our energy sector and for Scottish households and businesses.

[OUT OF SCOPE]

FOES OPEN LETTER TO FM ON ROSEBANK

I have said that we do not believe the future of Scotland lies in unlimited extraction of oil and gas.

- Unlike the UK Government, that has a starting point of maximum economic recovery. I have been clear that we need to be convinced that any new oil and gas field is consistent with our climate obligations, supports a just transition for our workers and bolsters our energy security.
- Decisions on oil and gas exploration and licensing remain reserved to the UK Government. We have consistently called for the UK Government's Climate Compatibility Checkpoint to be strengthened. Without transparent and robust climate compatibility tests, we lack a transparent evidence base to form the basis of decision-making, but we do not believe that Scotland's future is in indefinite or unlimited extraction of oil and gas.
- The Scottish Government has set out a clear pathway to deliver on global commitments and capitalise on the enormous opportunities offered by becoming a net zero economy - unlocking our potential as a renewables powerhouse. Our focus must be on meeting our energy security needs, reducing emissions and delivering affordable energy supplies whilst ensuring a just transition for our oil and gas workforce as North Sea resources decline.

[OUT OF SCOPE]



ANNEX A – Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy’s Statement on Rosebank approval

Commenting on the UK Government’s announcement to grant regulatory approval for the Rosebank oil field, Energy Secretary Neil Gray said:

“The Scottish Government has long expressed our concern about Rosebank being given the go-ahead, as the majority of what is extracted from Rosebank will go overseas and not necessarily contribute to our domestic energy security, we are therefore disappointed that approval has been given by the UK Government while these concerns remain unaddressed.

“The oil and gas industry continues to make a significant contribution to our economy, and our society. We also recognise – as the industry itself does - that we must balance our future energy needs with our climate obligations and, critically, ensuring a fair and just transition to net zero for our workforce.

“However, to be clear, Scotland’s future is not in unlimited oil and gas extraction, it is in maximising the potential of our renewables industry, which will help turn the North East into the Net Zero Capital of Europe, if not the World.

“Every oil and gas field that is given approval risks slowing down the just transition, away from fossil fuels and towards a sustainable future. The Scottish Government’s £500m Just Transition Fund will help ensure that we protect workers during this transition.

“In the face of a climate catastrophe, the UK Government have abandoned their climate commitments and committed to giving approval for 100 new oil and gas licences, that is not climate leadership, it is climate denial.

“I call again on the UK Government to implement a transparent and robust climate compatibility test, and to take the urgent action required in key reserved policy areas that will accelerate Scotland’s vast renewables capabilities and ensure a planned, fair and just energy transition.

“In the meantime, the Scottish Government will continue to focus on what we can control in delivering an energy system that will work for our energy security, our people and our planet. Through our draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition, we have set out a very clear vision for a net zero energy system in Scotland, and will publish our final strategy in the coming months.”

Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP
First Minister of Scotland
St Andrew’s House, Regent Road,
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
T: 0300 244 4000

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]
Senior Vice President, Equinor
By Email: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]
[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]
CEO, Ithaca Energy
By Email: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

3 October 2023

Dear [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Since the approval of Rosebank last week, there has been significant media and political interest in the Field and how it will support Scotland and the UK's energy security needs, supporting jobs and continued investment in the energy supply chain.

I have always maintained that Scotland's focus must now be on meeting our energy security needs, reducing emissions and delivering affordable energy supplies, whilst ensuring a just transition for our oil and gas workforce as North Sea resources decline. To achieve that, we need to harness the skills, talent and experience located in the North-East to support the build-out of net zero technologies in Scotland. We are already acting, for example, through our 10-year £500 million Just Transition Fund for the North East and Moray, to enable that transition.

The Scottish Government recognises the role that Scotland, and particularly the North East, can play in ensuring that we continue to be at the forefront of energy transition across the world. That is why we welcome the work conducted by companies operating across the oil and gas sector to diversify into low carbon and renewables.

The role of companies such as Equinor and Ithaca Energy operating in the oil and gas sector, will be essential in making a just transition possible. We remain committed to a net zero future, and we will use every power at our disposal to support sustainable economic growth and maximise the opportunities of the green economy.

I would be pleased to meet with you both to discuss further. Please liaise with my Private Secretary at FirstMinister@gov.scot who will assist in identifying a mutually convenient date.

HUMZA YOUSAF

First Minister of Scotland



First Minister
Bute House
6 Charlotte Square
Edinburgh
EH2 4DR
02 October 2023

Rosebank Development Consent

Dear First Minister,

It was nice to meet with you several weeks ago to discuss the Energy sector in Scotland and the opportunities and challenges presented by the Energy Transition. We are facing an



energy trilemma striving to provide clean, affordable, and secure energy for the nation. I enjoyed the open exchange of views and I thought we left with a common understanding from energy companies, supply chain, and investors that the position of the Scottish Government, and indeed your comments, have wide reaching influence despite jurisdiction over oil and gas licencing and development sitting in Westminster. I was therefore extremely disappointed by your response to the news that the Rosebank development has been approved.

Communities in the central belt of Scotland were badly affected by the way the coal industry was handled by the Government of the day. Having grown up in Dunfermline, where a number of the components for the project are going to be manufactured, I know that Rosebank's £8 billion investment is a welcome contribution to the whole Scottish economy – not just the north east. It was disappointing that no Scottish Minister gave any sign that the jobs likely to be supported in Scotland by this project were welcome. Polling over the past several days would suggest that “most reasonable people” in Scotland are welcoming of the investment.

With that said, the oil and gas industry is not advocating for unlimited extraction from the North Sea. As we have discussed, even in the most optimistic scenario in terms of demand reduction, the UK will remain a net importer of oil and gas. High taxation, an unstable fiscal regime and regulatory drag has resulted in years of underinvestment in the North Sea with capital spend over the period 2020 – 2025 expected to be less than half of the previous five years. Domestic oil and gas production has fallen by 70% from its peak pre-devolution. We have explained this many times to Ministers and officials, so it is disappointing to hear the language of “unlimited extraction” still used by you and other senior Ministers. I was intrigued by your comments that new oil and gas developments will slow the pace of the transition down and would welcome the opportunity to review evidence of this assertion. We strongly believe that the people and supply chain currently supporting oil and gas production and new developments are exactly those required to deliver the energy transition. Without support for oil and gas, our human capital and supply chain will be lost to the booming energy sector opportunities overseas thereby slowing down the energy transition.

I would welcome the opportunity to get together and discuss these topics in more detail. In addition, it would be my pleasure to introduce you to some of the hard-working people supporting the industry, whose livelihood depend on a functioning oil and gas sector. Whether at our office, onshore manufacturing facilities or offshore platforms. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
[REDACTED: REGULATON 11(2)]CEO

[OUT OF SCOPE]

From: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]
Sent: Thursday, September 7, 2023 5:06 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]>
Subject: Letter to First Minister: Edinburgh festival visitors call on First Minister to oppose Rosebank oil field

Hello



Hope that you are well.

I attach a letter to the First Minister signed by over 500 artists and audience members at the Edinburgh festivals.

The letter is from visitors to the city from around the world as well as local residents. The letter is calling on the First Minister to publicly, and unequivocally, oppose the development of the Rosebank oil field due to the climate harm the resulting emissions will cause.

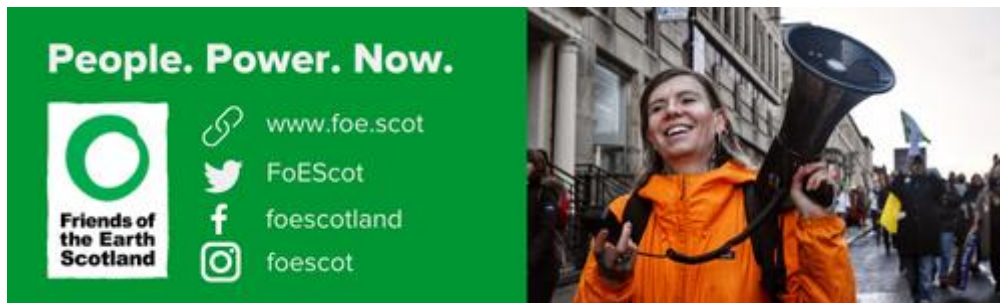
While we know that the oil licensing is not a fully devolved matter, the Scottish Government still holds enormous influence both over public opinion and the oil and gas industry. When Nicola Sturgeon opposed the smaller Cambo field in late 2021, Shell paused the project shortly thereafter.

The letter urges your Scottish Government to voice your strong opposition to the Rosebank project, as well as to all other new fossil fuel developments, and calls on you to implement a just transition for the energy sector which has the interests of workers and communities at its heart.

We look forward to your response and hopefully your support.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]



Our vision is of a world where everyone can enjoy a healthy environment and a fair share of the earth's resources. Friends of the Earth Scotland is an independent registered Scottish charity (SC003442).

28 November 2023

Re: Edinburgh Fringe Festival artists and audiences call on First Minister to unequivocally oppose the Rosebank oil field.

Dear First Minister,

We write to you as visitors to and residents of Edinburgh during the world-famous Fringe Festival. In the past month, people have travelled to Edinburgh to experience the vibrant culture of the Fringe, which brings together a unique mixture of art, comedy, music and food. Throughout history, the arts have been vital to social movements and have been used to highlight, popularise and energise struggles. The fight for climate justice is no different, with many of the shows and performers here at the Fringe centring a climate message.



This month, we have enjoyed the city of Edinburgh and all it has to offer as it welcomes visitors from all over the world. But now we have a message for you, and for the Scottish Government. Without urgent climate action, there will be no arts, no comedy, no Fringe for future generations to enjoy.

We need to act now to avoid further climate breakdown. As a major historical polluter and the home of the North Sea oil and gas industry, the eyes of the world are on Scotland to see what your next move will be.

If the Scottish Government wants to be regarded as a true climate leader, as you claim that you are, you must do everything in your power to implement a just transition away from fossil fuels before it is too late. These deadly fuels are driving the extreme weather and devastation across the world, and the science is clear that we must stop all new extraction now for any chance at a liveable future.

Until now you have avoided taking a strong position on the future of the oil and gas industry in Scotland, or on the development of the controversial Rosebank oil field. But the time for sitting on the fence is long past, and your silence on new fossil fuels is becoming a tacit approval for these projects.

The Rosebank oil field alone would produce the equivalent CO₂ emissions of the combined annual emissions of 28 low-income countries, blowing the UK's carbon budget while doing nothing to bring down energy bills for people in the UK.

We, the undersigned, urge you and the Scottish Government to voice your strong opposition to the Rosebank project, as well as to all other new fossil fuel developments, and call on you to implement a just transition for the energy sector which has the interests of workers and communities at its heart.

You have the power to make this happen. Even though oil licensing is not a fully devolved matter, the Scottish Government still holds enormous influence both over public opinion, and the oil and gas industry. When your predecessor Nicola Sturgeon spoke out against the Cambo oil field in 2021, it didn't take long for Shell to lose confidence in the project and pull out. You can go one step further now by clearly opposing all new fossil fuel developments and signalling that Scotland is serious about implementing a just transition.

By the next Edinburgh Fringe, Scotland could be well on its way to a future without fossil fuels. We hope that the Scottish Government will set an example for the rest of the UK and the world as it builds a new energy system to provide clean, affordable energy for all.

Thank you for your support.

Organised by Friends of the Earth Scotland and the Stop Rosebank campaign.

Signed by,

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

Friends of the Earth Scotland
Thorn House, 5 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PR
Tel 0131 243 2700 | info@foe.scot | www.foe.scot
A Scottish Charity: SC003442 |

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair
Work and Energy
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Eaconamaidh do Mhath
Dhaoine, Obair Chothromach is Cumhachd
Neil Gray MSP/BPA

T : 0300 244 4000

E : scottish.ministers@gov.scot

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

[REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)]

Our Reference: 202300375722

Your Reference: Letter to First Minister: Edinburgh festival visitors call on First Minister to oppose Rosebank oil field

24 October 2023

Dear [REDACTED: REGULATION 11(2)],

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 September to the First Minister regarding Rosebank oil field. I am responding as Energy sits within my portfolio. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in responding.

We are in the midst of a nature and climate crisis and we must be prepared to take action commensurate with the scale of that challenge, but we must do so via a fair and just transition that empowers our people. The Scottish Government is clear that unlimited extraction of fossil fuels is not consistent with our climate commitments. Our focus must be on meeting our energy security needs, reducing emissions and ensuring a just transition for our oil and gas workforce as North Sea resources decline. Scotland's future is not in indefinite or unlimited extraction of oil and gas.

As you note, responsibility for policy on oil and gas exploration and production is a reserved matter and sits with the UK Government. We have long expressed our concern about Rosebank being given the go-ahead, as the majority of what is extracted from Rosebank will go overseas and not necessarily contribute to our domestic energy security.

I am sure you will have seen or heard that the First Minister made clear our disagreement with the decision of the UK Government with regard to Rosebank when he said on 27 September, in forthright terms:

“This is the wrong decision.”

The Scottish Government remains focused on unleashing the economic and energy potential of Scotland's renewables sector while investing £500 million in a Just Transition fund for the North East and Moray. Furthermore we are also providing direct support to energy transition through the £75 million Energy Transition Fund and are investing £100 million to help businesses create new, green jobs through our Green Jobs Fund.

You may also have noted that as recently 17th October the First Minister announced new strategic investment to help create thousands of green jobs and deliver the full economic potential of offshore renewables projects over the next five years. Up to £500 million will leverage private investment in ports, manufacturing and assembly work to support major supply chain opportunities to Scotland.

I believe this demonstrates our commitment to the energy transition and recognition that it offers significant opportunities for Scotland.

I hope that this addresses your concerns and assures you of our commitment to achieving a fair and just transition. You may wish to share this response with other signatories of your letter.

Yours sincerely

NEIL GRAY

[REDACTED: REGULATION 10(4)(e)]