

## EIR Request: 202400410353

- any documentation relevant to meetings held between the Scottish Government and Equinor (or their representatives, such as trade bodies) at the United Nations COP26 conference in Glasgow in 2021.
- This should include, but not be limited to the meeting between Kate Forbes MSP and Equinor evidenced on the lobbying register at this link: <https://www.lobbying.scot/SPS/InformationReturn/SearchInformationReturnDetail/31504>
- Documentation requested may include but not be limited to meeting attendance, briefings, topics discussed, minutes, follow-up meetings, and any agreed actions.

### 1. Briefing – Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy – 1 November 2021

#### **Briefing – Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy**

Meeting with **David Cairns**, Vice President Political and Public Affairs - Global, Equinor.  
Monday 1 November, 14:30 – 15:00



**David Cairns**, Vice President Political and Public Affairs - Global, Equinor.

Previously British Ambassador in Sweden.

#### **We are committed to Scotland being at the forefront of global efforts to tackle climate change, by delivering on the aims of the Paris Agreement**

- The Scottish Government's focus will now be on achieving the fastest possible, just transition for the oil and gas sector – one that delivers jobs and economic benefit, ensures our energy security, and meets our climate obligations.
- The principle underpinning is the one already encapsulated in our Co-operation Agreement – that unlimited extraction of fossil fuels, or maximum economic recovery in UK policy terms, is not consistent with our climate obligations.
- I recognise that countries around the world cannot continue to maximise economic recovery of fossil fuels if the Paris aims are to be met.
- As offshore licensing is currently reserved to Westminster, I wrote to the Prime Minister in August asking him to commit the UK Government to:
  - o enhancing the climate conditionality of offshore production, and
    - o to agree to reassess licenses already issued but where field development has not yet commenced, such as Cambo.
- The Scottish Government has offered to engage further about what this process should involve to ensure that it is credible and commands confidence – this offer has not been taken up by UK Government.
- We recognise that our vision and roadmap for the energy sector can't happen in isolation - a Just Transition Plan for Energy will be at the heart of our refreshed Energy Strategy, publishing as one coherent document in spring 2022.
- To inform the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan for Energy we have announced the award of a programme of work to better understand Scotland's energy requirements as we transition to net zero and how this aligns with our climate change targets.

- As outlined in our initial response to September’s Just Transition Commission report, the Green Jobs Workforce Academy will deliver a skills guarantee for workers in carbon-intensive sectors, such as oil and gas.

**Scotland’s Energy Strategy already identifies a crucial role for the oil and gas sector in the energy transition that is required to move to a society that generates net zero greenhouse gas emissions.**

- We are wholly committed to ending Scotland’s contribution to climate change and doing so in a way that is fair for all, ensuring a green recovery and a just transition that supports good green jobs, skills and expertise.
- The knowledge and experience of the oil and gas sector and its supply chain will be very important for developing and investing in essential low carbon technologies.
- The re-deployment and, where necessary, re-training of oil and gas workers will be key to ensuring a just transition and to meeting the labour and skills needs of this growing renewables sector.
- Our Climate Emergency Skills Action Plan outlines a systematic approach to retaining skills and expertise as we transition to becoming a net-zero economy.

**The knowledge and experience of the oil and gas sector and its supply chain will be very important for developing and investing in essential low carbon technologies.**

- For example, the knowledge of the sector and its supply chain is important to developing key low carbon technologies such as Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCS).
- CCUS is seen by experts such as the UK Committee on Climate Change and the International Energy Agency as being vital to achieving Scottish, UK and international climate emissions targets.
  - The CCC’s 6<sup>th</sup> Carbon Budget states *“this supports our message that **CCS is essential to achieving Net Zero, at lowest cost, in the UK. The importance of CCS globally further underscores the urgency of progressing CCS plans in the UK**”*
  - *In Sept 2020 the IEA stated: “**CCUS is the only group of technologies that contributes both to reducing emissions in key sectors directly and to removing CO2 to balance emissions that are challenging to avoid – a critical part of “net” zero goals.** After years of slow progress, new investment incentives and strengthened climate goals are building new momentum behind CCUS.”*

**In line with our climate obligations, we will continue to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels as part of Scotland’s journey to net zero.**

- Our updated Climate Change Plan sets out transformational policies including a substantial increase in renewables energy capacity, targeting up to 11GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030 – enough to power up to 8 million homes - and setting an ambition, subject to consultation, of between 8 and 12GW of onshore wind by the same date.
- We are also committed to reducing car kilometres by 20% by 2030 while investing £5bn in Scotland’s railways over the course of the parliament, and the decarbonisation at least 1 million homes by 2030.

**Offshore wind has a vital role to play in achieving our net zero targets and the decarbonisation of our energy system.**

- We have an ambition to increase offshore wind capacity up to 11 gigawatts (GW) of energy installed by 2030 – enough to power more than eight million homes. This recognises that deployment must increase significantly if we are to meet our climate change targets.
- Floating offshore wind is at an early stage of maturity, offering Scotland first mover advantage and domestic supply chain opportunities.
- Crown Estate Scotland has commenced its first leasing round for the right to develop commercial scale offshore wind projects in Scottish waters – ScotWind.

- ScotWind could generate up to £860 million in revenue for Scotland, and billions of pounds of investment over the next 20 years.
- 74 applications were received for the 15 sites. Application to ScotWind leasing closed on 16 July 2021 and are currently being evaluated - successful bids will be announced in January 2022.
- **[REDACTED]**
- The first cycle of ScotWind leasing is currently underway, which will provide a pipeline of new projects from the late 2020s onwards.
- Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, alluded to future ScotWind leasing rounds in his key note speech at Scottish Renewables Floating Offshore Wind conference in September. First Minister will mention in her speech at the offshore wind business breakfast this week (4<sup>th</sup> November), that plans are underway to make an announcement at the end of January, after successful ScotWind bids have been announced.

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## **Annex A - Background Equinor**

### **Equinor aims to become a leading company in the energy transition. And have identified 5 ways they can contribute to a net-zero society:**

- We commit to reducing emissions from our production of oil & gas.
- We accelerate our investments in renewable energy and grow a profitable renewables business.
- We invest in new technology to create and build new low-carbon markets, value chains and industries.
- We will invest in nature-based solutions.
- We use our voice to support the goals of the Paris Agreement and policies that support net zero.

### **Equinor's UKCS Offshore oil and gas activities**

**Mariner Field** – Equinor are the operator of this heavy oil field located 100 km East of Shetland. Mariner is Equinor's first operated asset in the UK, - the development has been praised for its use of offshore digital workers, automated drilling and digital twin technologies to improve costs, including the use of Echo, a digital copy of the platform, to deliver safe and efficient solutions. First oil from the field was announced in 2016. Wood Mackenzie have estimated that the field is expected to produce more than 300 million barrels of oil over the next 30 years. Equinor have stated that the field employs over 500 people, offshore and onshore, contractors included - with contracts worth more than USD 1.3 billion awarded, it will support a significant level of investment and jobs in the UK supply chain for many years to come.

**Rosebank Field** – Equinor have a 40% stake as operator of this oil and gas field. This is one of the UK Continental Shelf's largest remaining oilfields (the field also contains reserves of gas), Rosebank was discovered in 2004 and lies about 80 miles north-west of Shetland.  
**[REDACTED]**

### **UKCS and electrification**

- On 23 September, through the NSTD, the OGA launched a £1 million decarbonisation competition for the electrification of offshore oil and gas installations
- Platform electrification is a key component of the OGA's vision for an integrated energy basin. The OGA's Energy Integration Report found that the UK Continental Shelf could (through a mix of platform electrification, carbon capture and storage, offshore wind and hydrogen) absorb up to 60% of the UK's entire CO2 abatement needed to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

- Power generation accounts for around two thirds of oil and gas production emissions. It is anticipated that powering installations using electricity either from a cable to the shore or from a nearby windfarm, could lead to 2-3Mtpa CO2 emissions reductions, which is equivalent to the annual carbon emissions from households in a city the size of Liverpool.
- In addition, the resulting power demand from offshore oil and gas electrification could potentially support up to 4 gigawatts of new offshore windpower capacity.
- OGA Chief Executive Dr Andy Samuel said: *“Electrification of oil and gas installations is a vital part of industry’s licence to operate and to meet its North Sea Transition Deal emissions reduction targets. This is also a big opportunity for industry to support offshore wind expansion, with lasting infrastructure that will provide benefits beyond oil and gas, long into the future.”*

## **Annex B - Background Briefing – Peterhead CCS Power Station Project**

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- On 11 May 2021, SSE Thermal and Equinor unveiled plans to jointly develop a new low-carbon power station at Peterhead, which could become one of the UK's first power stations equipped with carbon capture technology.
- Peterhead CCS Power Station is planned to be a new 900MW gas-fired power station fitted with carbon capture technology to remove carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from its emissions. By capturing up to 1.5 million tonnes (MT) of CO<sub>2</sub> each year, the new station alone would achieve 15% of the UK Government's target to capture 10MT of CO<sub>2</sub> annually by 2030.
- As Scotland's only major thermal power station, SSE Thermal's existing Peterhead Power Station provides critical flexibility to the electricity system, supporting increased penetration from renewable generation while maintaining security of supply. Peterhead CCS Power Station, as a new decarbonised power station at the site, would continue to provide this essential flexible and efficient power in a net zero world.
- Situated on Scotland's east coast, the Peterhead site in Aberdeenshire is ideally placed for carbon capture technology, with access to essential CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure being developed through the well-advanced Acorn Project. The Acorn CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Site, which will be used by the Acorn Project to safely store CO<sub>2</sub>, is located about 100km offshore in rock formations deep below the North Sea. Peterhead CCS Power Station and the Acorn Project both won funding from the UK Government's £171 million pot for the Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge Fund in March, as part of Scotland's Net Zero Infrastructure programme.
- Given the readiness of carbon capture technology in power generation, projects like Peterhead CCS Power Station would stimulate the development of CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage infrastructure across Scotland, into which other energy and industrial emitters can then connect to capture and store their emissions. This will accelerate Scotland's transition to a net zero economy, while safeguarding vital Scottish industries and ensuring a just transition for workers and communities.
- The Peterhead CCS Power Station project is in the development stage and final investment decisions will depend on the progress of the necessary business models and associated infrastructure. With the appropriate policy mechanisms in place, the new station could come online by 2026, in line with Government ambitions for Track-1 industrial cluster projects and the proposed timelines for the Acorn Project.

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Annex D - Supply chain Top lines

- As part of the ScotWind bidding round, applicants have submitted a Supply Chain Development Statement (SCDS) to Crown Estate Scotland, outlining the supply chain activity they commit to undertaking within Scotland, the UK and overseas.
- Whilst the SCDS cannot be used to decide the outcome of the Scotwind round due to competition law, Crown Estate Scotland will, through the site leases, require applicants to meet the commitments made in their submitted SCDS and also, stretch this to meet the 'Ambition Figures' also included in the SCDS.
- This work will be complemented by recent changes to the UKG Contract for Difference Supply Chain Plan process, to ensure greater utilisation of the domestic supply chain. Failure to do so could result in termination of CfD agreements.
- Both the Scottish and UK Governments are committed to increasing the level of local content in the build-out of offshore wind around our coastline. It is hoped that the changes to the SCDS and CfD Supply Chain Plans will ensure that developers and Tier 1 suppliers commit to delivering the 60% local content (and beyond) set out in the UKG Offshore Wind Sector Deal.
- There is considerable ongoing work including the Strategic Infrastructure Assessment (SIA) that was commissioned by the Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council (SOWEC) to understand how Scotland could capitalise on the economic opportunity resulting from offshore wind. Published on 20 August the SIA will now be taken forward by SOWEC, with Ivan McKee, Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise, and Brian McFarlane (SSE) in their capacity as SOWEC co-chairs leading the group to develop an action plan to take forward the SIA's recommendations.
- The report has five main recommendations which are directed at both the sector and government, and the primary recommendation focusses on bringing the manufacturing of floating offshore wind platforms to Scotland through creation of a Scottish Floating Offshore Wind Port Cluster, with ports acting in partnership to provide the required infrastructure area and capability needed to attract manufacturers to use Scottish ports and invest in Scotland.
- We look forward to the Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council taking forward next steps on the recommendations set out in the report.

### 2. Ms Forbes meeting with David Cairns VP Equinor – 01 November 2021 Readout

| <b>ENGAGEMENT REPORT</b>  |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Minister</b>           | Kate Forbes, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy (KF)  |
| <b>Type of engagement</b> | Meeting at COP26   |
| <b>Date</b>               | 1 November 2021  |
| <b>Who</b>                | Bilateral with David Cairns (DC), Vice President Political and Public Affairs - Global, Equinor  |
| <b>Key Points</b>         | DC offered to provide an overview of the work Equinor are currently doing and how they are transitioning. DC commented that Equinor are investing in Scotland. While they used to be a traditional oil and gas company Equinor are now transitioning. He |

highlighted that UK, USA, Brazil are key in terms of renewables. The UK in particular touches on every type of renewable energy.

DC gave examples of current and future Equinor projects in the UK (eg. Monaive? - up and running & Rosebank – 2026) and explained they are hoping to make use of the North Sea Transition Deal.

DC confirmed that Equinor try to align with Norwegian governments climate targets.

DC gave further examples of the work Equinor are doing and how they have managed to significantly reduce emissions. For example sites powered from shore by hydrogen power historically generated 15kg of CO2 per barrel but now 1kg of CO2 per barrel.

In order to do this they need access to wind. This can be done via cable from Shetland or by floating offshore. DC explained that the platforms are engineered in a way that allows them to support either method.

KF asked if DC's had any specific concerns regarding doing business in Scotland and he confirmed that the concerns were normal business concerns such as planning. DC stated that he feels offshore wind is the biggest export/investment market. Used to deliver power to the UK and producing power in UK.

A discussion was had regarding ScotWind and DC explained he felt that the bidding process was a bit of a beauty pageant. DC highlighted he felt it was important Scotland made use of the fact that they can now go to big scale commercial developments instead of small scale.

DC explained that Equinor are working on lowering the £/unit of power. Floating offshore wind can be cheaper the quicker they can develop. They started with 8 ½ mw, then Doggerbank was 12 ½ mw and they now have 15 ½ me in Vestas USA.

DC believes that UK should be open to foreign investment as this will well work in this sector. GE did not originally manufacture in UK but now they do. If we encourage investment this will spread around the country.

DC commented that Doggerbank worlds first in terms of pricing. All of Equinor's experts focused on not losing money. This means that everyone in sector is under pressure to be world's best.

A discussion was had around the work being done in Doing Hydrogen + CCUS (specific mention of Acorn & Humberside). DC



|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
|                           | <p>stated that we have the great gift of North Sea and with it ‘we can store EU’s emissions.’ The North Sea will provide work opportunities in transition, geology and piping.</p> <p>DC and KF discussed the fact that Acorn needs public sector finance to be successful. DC provided information on their Northern Lights project. 80% was capital investment from the state but Equinor took the risk. Done on a “build and they will come” mentality. DC commented that his advice to SG would be to scale fast.</p> <p>KF mentioned SG 10 year economic strategy. A key part of the transition will be ensuring there are jobs. The new generation want to do wind/new technologies and this skills transfer is keen to aiding oil and gas transition.</p> <p>DC commented that Equinor still make a high percentage of their profit from oil and gas and they use these profits to invest in renewables/transition. However, they do not do projects which are not profitable. Investing for the future will have diversified profit spread and portfolios.</p> <p>Scotland is looking at the transition in a holistic way. Looking at jobs, labour and the whole supply chain. KF commented that productivity is key. There are opportunities in R&amp;D, advanced manufacturing and technology.</p> |
| <b>Actions</b>            |  |
| <b>Comments</b>           |  |
| <b>Attending Official</b> | John Primrose, Deputy Director, International (DEXA)<br>[REDACTED]   |
| <b>Copy List</b>          |  |

### 3. Email from Equinor to Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy – 8 November 2021

**From:** [REDACTED] On Behalf Of Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <CabSecFE@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Follow up discussion

For MiCase as diary.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (she/her)  
Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy – Kate Forbes

The Scottish Government | St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG  
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | E: [CabSecFE@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecFE@gov.scot)

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**From:** David Cairns [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 November 2021 11:16  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Economy <[CabSecFE@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecFE@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Strang F (Frank) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Follow up discussion

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

It was a pleasure to meet you, not once, but twice, in Glasgow during COP last week. As you saw, I was very happy to get hold of the team Scotland COP26 facemask "merch".

If I may I would like to follow up our discussion properly by bringing in our Senior Vice President leader in Scotland, Arne Gurtner, to meet you. I understand that your diary will be very busy, so perhaps we could suggest a call first thing in the New Year? You would of course be welcome to visit our offices in Aberdeen, or we could come to you, in Edinburgh or elsewhere.

Best wishes,

David

**David Cairns**  
Vice President Political and Public Affairs - Global  
CCOM PPAG  
Equinor UK Ltd

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Visitor address: Two Kingdom Street, London, W2 6BD



[Find out more about Equinor in the UK - click to download](#)

#### **4. Ministerial Portfolio Acknowledgement to Equinor – 8 November 2021**

MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS  
Public Engagement Unit  
PORTFOLIOS MINISTERIAL  
Aonad Ceangal Poblach

David Cairns  
[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202100255027

Dear David Cairns,

Thank you for your correspondence sent on 08/11/2021. Your query will be passed to the relevant area for consideration and has been given a reference number of 202100255027. Please quote this number in all correspondence. The Scottish Government aim to respond, where necessary, as quickly as possible and within the stated timescale as indicated on our website (<http://www.gov.scot/Contacts/>).

Yours sincerely  
MiCase

Correspondence system for SG and partner agencies

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG  
[www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot)

#### **5. Response from Cabinet Secretary Net Zero and Transport to Equinor – 23 February 2022**

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Net Zero, Cumhachd agus Còmhdhail  
Michael Matheson BPA/MSP  
T : 0300 244 4000  
E : [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)

David Cairns  
[REDACTED]

Our Reference: 202100255027

23 February 2022

Dear Mr Cairns,

Thank you for your follow up email of letter of 8 November requesting a meeting with Kate Forbes MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy, to discuss Equinor's activities in Scotland. Your correspondence was forwarded to Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport having the relevant area of ministerial portfolio responsibility. I apologise for the delay in responding.

Mr Matheson would be delighted to accept your invitation to meet, subject to Parliamentary business. I would be grateful if you could contact the Cabinet Secretary's Diary Secretary, [REDACTED], via email at CabSecNetZET@gov.scot to arrange a mutually convenient date/make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Private Secretary

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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