

**Please can you provide minutes for all of the below entries in the lobbying register, which show meetings between Humza Yousaf and oil and gas companies/lobbyists.**

**1. OEUK Roundtable meeting – 15/01/24**

**OEUK Hosted Roundtable  
15 January, 2024  
Annan House, Aberdeen**

**Attendees**

First Minister  
David Whitehouse, OEUK  
[REDACTED]

Erik Ronsberg, Stenna Drilling  
Doris Reiter, bp  
Steve Wisely, Subsea7  
Martin Simmonite, Wood  
Colin McAllister, SG  
[REDACTED]

Cabinet Secretary WEFWE  
Jenny Stanning, OEUK  
Nicolas Payer, TotalEnergies  
Simon Roddy, Shell  
Toru Fujishiro, Floatation  
Bob Sanguinetti, Port of Aberdeen  
Scott Barr, Harbour Energy  
Jack Middleton, SG  
[REDACTED]

**Opening Remarks**

David Whitehouse (DW) opened the meeting by stating that attendees wanted to show why they were good partners in the energy transition.

The First Minister (FM) emphasised the need for openness and to expect challenge from each other. He reflected on the context of the climate crisis and the UK Continental Shelf as a declining oil and gas basin. He also recognised the vital roles of the offshore energy sector in supporting jobs and investing in energy transition, noted the huge opportunities associated with that transition in Scotland and affirmed the desire from government to be a collaborative partner with industry in realising these.

DW responded by further noting the economic and jobs contribution of the sector and setting out that the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (ESJTP) had helped develop the conversation around Scotland's transition pathway. OEUK see a key opportunity for the final ESJTP as being to identify ways to close the gap identified in the draft in terms of estimated GVA during the transition from reliance on oil and gas towards renewables. He agreed that the way to drive success was through greater collaboration, as part of which the industry needs to demonstrate how they are playing an active part in the transition. He indicated that that the decline of the North Sea basin needs to be managed in a way that enables Scotland to showcase what an integrated energy world will look like. He concluded by emphasising that energy transition is fundamentally about skills and jobs and that collaboration, including through the final ESJTP, would be key to delivering this.

## **Roundtable Discussion**

Industry attendees, from both supply chain and developer businesses, summarised the roles of their respective companies and aspects of their planning for a just energy transition. Points raised included:

- The need for responsibly produced North Sea oil and gas to continue as part of the transition, noting that much of the investment in renewables, CCUS and hydrogen is contingent on this. In particular, offshore wind business models are currently challenging and needs support from oil and gas to be viable.
- Linked to this, recognition that the offshore energy system, in the North Sea and elsewhere, is increasingly integrated in nature such that it often no longer makes sense to refer solely to – for example - “oil and gas” or “offshore wind” businesses.
- A strong sense of pride in the offshore expertise and leadership that currently exists in North East Scotland and a fear of this being lost if the transition is not well managed. This included discussion of risks that offshore careers will cease to be attractive to the next generation.
- Recognition of the global nature of many aspects of these energy industries, with risks that key physical infrastructure and personnel talent/expertise/skills could move elsewhere in the world if the North Sea investment climate becomes less attractive. Specific examples were given in relation to jobs at risk from changes in the UK fiscal regime. It was also noted that choice of language from politicians matters heavily for investor confidence.
- A common desire across businesses (both supply chain and developer) for as much certainty as possible of policy direction from, and also collaboration with, governments in delivering the transition.

During the discussion, FM agreed with the importance of managing the transition in a way that is fair, promotes jobs for current and future generations and reflects the increasingly integrated nature of energy systems and business models. He also restated a previous challenge to OEUK for the industry to set out further detail on its own planning for the transition, including in terms of milestones.

## **Closing Remarks**

In closing, both FM and the Cabinet Secretary thanked attendees for their time. They noted that there was wide agreement on the end destination of a just energy transition, the vital importance of supply chains during the transition and also on the need for government and business to work in partnership. They reaffirmed their commitments and ongoing offers to visibly engage and support offshore energy industries and meet with their representatives. The Cabinet Secretary also looked forward to the key upcoming Scottish Government publications of the final ESJTP and Green Industrial Strategy.

*ENDS*

## **2. Ithaca/Equinor – 08/11/23**

### **Meeting between Arne Gørtner (Senior Vice President, Equinor), Alan Bruce (CEO, Ithaca Energy) and the First Minister, 8 November 2023.**

- The FM noted the context to the meeting being correspondence received expressing disappointment in the Scottish Government's response to the consenting of the Rosebank field. He set out that this response reflected concerns around the rigour of the UK Government's climate compatibility checkpoint approach in the context of domestic and global climate obligations and lack of clarity around energy security implications when oil is mainly exported.
- The FM also noted a shared recognition of the need for the energy transition to be just and the clear understanding on part of Scottish Government that this could only be realised in partnership with industry. He challenged current attendees, and the oil & gas industry more widely, to set out more detail on what it's contribution to the transition would look like in practice.
- Industry attendees noted that their concerns around the Rosebank response were around consistency and tone. They also set out concerns that both the North Sea oil & gas and offshore wind sectors were currently in states of crisis, meaning that signals at this time were particularly important for investor confidence. In response to the FM's challenge, they expressed the view that the pace of transition away from fossil fuels should be set from the demand side. They also noted that oil & gas produced from the UK Continental Shelf only comprises a small percentage of global production and that many of the companies involved could easily move elsewhere, with associated impacts for supply chain businesses.
- The FM agreed with the points around the importance of investor confidence, the need for fundamental market reform in support of the energy transition and focussing on supply chain companies. He also agreed that reducing demand for fossil fuels was a vital element of transition, but queried whether the evidence was clear that this would be enough to deliver on global climate goals. He set out responding to the climate crisis must be the key overall priority, given the severity and existential nature of the challenge it poses.
- Attendees welcomed the meeting and agreed to maintain open lines of communication.

*ENDS*

## **3. True North Energy Dinner – 07/09/23**

Note of business dinner between First Minister, Humza Yousaf, and energy business leaders, hosted by True North, on 7 September 2023

Attendees:

Humza Yousaf, First Minister  
Colin McAllister, Special Adviser  
Susie Townend, Interim DD, Energy Industries Division, SG

Geoff Aberdein, True North  
Sir Ian Wood, Chairman ETZ Ltd  
Maggie McGinlay, CEO ETZ Ltd  
Sian Lloyd Rees, CEO, Aker Offshore Wind  
Barry Silver, Managing Director, MoorEast  
Louise Kingham, SVP, Europe and Head of Country, BP  
Brian McFarlane, Director of Offshore Development, SSE  
Graeme Sword, Founding Partner, Bluewater Private Equity  
Neil McCulloch, Chief Executive, Spirit Energy  
Alan Bruce, Chief Executive, Ithaca  
Arne Grtner, Senior VP UK and Ireland Equinor  
Jillian Owen, UK Country Manager, Apache  
Bob Keiller, Chair of Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce  
Davis Larssen, CEO, Proserv  
David Whitehouse, CEO, OEUK  
Sarah Moore, Chief Executive, Peterson  
Simon Roddy, SVP, Upstream, Shell  
Susan Cowie, Operations Manager, True North

The dinner was organised and chaired by Geoff Aberdein of True North and operated under the Chatham House rule.

Guests spoke about their investment plans for the UK, with much of it destined for Scotland. However, they also indicated that, as primarily international companies facing competing demands for capital, they were finding it difficult to persuade their Boards and financial backers to invest in the UK. Political risk had increased and confidence was low.

Guests emphasised their commitment to the energy transition and the important role they believed companies in the energy business would play in the transition, using their resources (capital and people) and expertise. One guest suggested 80% of the global transition would be funded through private finance and that they would like to go faster in the transition. However they felt the language in the draft ESJTP of a presumption against oil and gas was damaging [note it is a presumption against new exploration for oil and gas].

Some guests spoke about their investment in renewables and the frustration they felt with the process. There is global capital to invest but this is frustrated by slow processes for consenting and grid expansion that are putting at risk the supply chain and Scotland retaining its place as a global leader. The industry needs a steady pipeline of projects to build up the supply chain and employment opportunities and maintain them over decades.

Guests welcomed much of the Programme for Government published earlier in the week, with the onshore wind deal and Green Industrial Strategy particularly highlighted.

Guests asked Scottish Government to give visible support to the energy industry and requested that this extend not just to their work in renewables but to oil and gas production too.

Some guests suggested that the nature of their own businesses meant they did not have sufficient capital to expand beyond oil and gas, this was in part attributed to the UK taxation regime, including the Energy Profits Levy, which they suggested had caused investors to withdraw. They emphasised that a disorderly exit from oil and gas production would result in the taxpayer facing more costly decommissioning costs and potential environmental impacts.

Several guests spoke about workforce and the need to attract skilled labour into the energy industry now in order to support a transition over time. One guest emphasised the importance of STEM learning in schools.

Some guests spoke about the integrated nature of much of the industry, operating both in traditional fossil fuels and in renewable energy. One guest suggested a narrative that divided “us and them”, or demonised part of the energy sector was not helpful. Some guests suggested that if the supply chain did not have an oil and gas industry to support it would not pivot to renewables but would disappear. Others emphasised the urgency of the transition to renewables, one guest suggested that 2025/26 was the crossover point if the supply chain was to retain workload.

The First Minister recognised the role the sector has played since Offshore Europe began 50 years ago, and said that Scottish Government recognised the contribution it can make to the transition. It was unfortunate the debate was so polarised and toxic, overshadowing the investments by energy companies into renewable energy. However he emphasised the reality of the climate emergency pointing to drought, flooding, wild fires and extreme heat this summer.

The First Minister noted that he was looking to develop a nuanced position, where his starting point on any new license was, “convince us” and that is why Scottish Government is calling for a robust and transparent climate compatibility checkpoint.

The First Minister noted the demographic challenge Scotland faces and said he wanted it to be seen as a land of opportunity, attracting talent, made more difficult in the context of UK Government migration policy.

He emphasised the priority he placed on a Just Transition, and his commitment to avoid the type of harm done in the 1980s by a Conservative Government to the mining communities as we now move from oil and gas. The First Minister suggested that while guests said they were committed to a Just Transition the wider public were not convinced.

The First Minister recognised the importance of attracting investment and was frustrated the UK Government is not using the levers it has to attract investment. He was looking to build political consensus round a Just Transition, to provide a route map for the next 20-30 years. **The Scottish Government could play a convening**

**role in bringing people together and he asked officials to consider how to take this forward.**

The First Minister concluded by saying he had heard clearly the message guests had given on the supply chain. He wanted a vocal and visible partnership to support a Just Transition.

#### **4. OEUK – 23/10/23**

##### **Meeting between David Whitehouse (CEO, Offshore Energies UK) and the First Minister, 23 October 2023.**

- The meeting began with enquiries as to the safety and wellbeing of North Sea workers affected by the recent extreme weather.
- The FM recognised the important contribution which the oil and gas industry, and its skilled workforce, must make to Scotland's energy transition. He also offered a challenge to the industry to set out detail on what this contribution would look like in practice, including in terms of milestones on the pathway to net-zero emissions at the national scale by 2045.
- OEUK indicated that a key feature of a successful transition would be partnership working. They also emphasised the importance for industry sentiment and investor confidence of forms of language used by Governments.
- The FM welcomed a partnership model in which all interested industries would feel included. All attendees noted the importance of supply chain companies in the transition.
- Attendees looked forward to both the planned OEUK-hosted roundtable in Aberdeen on 27 November and COP28 in late November / early December.

*ENDS*

#### **5. Shell – 10/05/23**

Note of meeting between First Minister, Humza Yousaf, and Shell on 10 May 2023

Attendees:

Humza Yousaf, First Minister

David Bunch, Country Chair, Shell

Padraig McCloskey, Corporate Relations Manager, Shell

Jack Middleton, Special Adviser

**[REDACTED]**

Mr Bunch congratulated Mr Yousaf on his appointment as First Minister and set out Shell's commitment to Scotland and intention to play a leadership role in the energy transition. In his view, gas and oil activity was still necessary to provide the skills and cash flow to drive the transition. He suggested a managed pathway would reduce the need to import LNG with a higher carbon footprint than local production. He noted that Climate Change Committee advice on a balanced pathway to net zero maintains gas in the system for some time.

First Minister spoke of the importance he attached to relationship building. He sees the energy sector as partners in securing the investment and jobs that will help with the transition. He identified three criteria – meeting our climate commitments under the Paris Agreement; considerations of energy security, domestically and globally as countries move away from dependence on Russia; and a just transition that takes workers with us.

First Minister made clear that his Government would continue to press for reductions in the emissions associated with production and that he considers producers to have responsibility to act. However, he would take a constructive approach, working in partnership on energy security, climate and jobs, he did not want to see job losses in the North East.

Mr Bunch welcomed this approach, and reflected that building out the energy system was challenging, especially when timelines extend beyond political terms. First Minister expressed frustration that the UK Government had not committed to a timetable for the Scottish Cluster and assured Shell that Scottish Government would continue to press the UK Government on Acorn. As a partner in Acorn, Shell said it believes it offers the best potential for carbon storage and had withdrawn from the East Coast Cluster in the Humber to focus on Acorn.

Mr Bunch said that Shell considers blue hydrogen to have massive potential. However, his view was that demand side incentives are missing in the UK compared to Europe, which as a result now has a more established hydrogen market. He suggested Scottish Government could usefully look at demand side stimulation for hydrogen.

First Minister reflected on conversations he has had with potential investors in hydrogen technology. Risk was a barrier to investment and he is considering how government can partner with business to support innovative technologies. Mr Bunch agreed on the importance of crowding in big players, and suggested lack of infrastructure could be a barrier. He referenced that Shell had chosen to build Europe's largest electrolyser in the Netherlands. First Ministers noted Scottish Government's convening power and expressed willingness to bring people round the table to tackle barriers to investment. Mr McCloskey offered to send more details of the project to officials. Mr Bunch suggested that converting surplus wind to hydrogen will confer strategic advantage but recommended that in the interim government not lose track of the role blue hydrogen could play.

First Minister noted the many opportunities in the energy transition and welcomed Shell investment in the ScotWind supply chain. Shell explained that they are also investing £100m in the Energy Transition Zone (ETZ).

Mr Bunch invited the First Minister to visit their CCUS site at St Fergus and to see their new offices in Aberdeen and to visit them in London.

First Minister thanked Shell for the invitation and asked them to keep in touch.

## **6. AGCC/FM Aberdeen Harbour – 04/04/23**

## **First Minister – Visit to Aberdeen Harbour – Note of Meeting - 4 April 2023**

**Purpose - The First Minister announced £25 million of Just Transition Fund support for the Scottish National Investment Bank during a visit to the transformative Aberdeen South Harbour expansion.**

### **Attendees:**

#### **Scottish Government**

First Minister

Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transition

#### **Stakeholders**

Bob Sanguinetti, Chief Executive Officer, Port of Aberdeen

Roddy James, Chief Commercial Officer, Port of Aberdeen

Roy Buchan, Port of Aberdeen

Sir Ian Wood, Chair, Opportunity North East and ETZ

Jennifer Crow, Chief Executive, Opportunity North East

Maggie McGinlay, Chief Executive, ETZ

Russell Borthwick, Chief Executive, Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

Ryan Crighton, Policy & Marketing Director, AGCC

Fergus Mutch, Policy Adviser, AGCC

### **Discussion Themes**

- Energy Transition / Just Transition to net zero
- Green Freeports
- ScotWind
- Investment in Net Zero

### **Meeting Note:**

**NB:** No formal agenda was provided.

- Thanks and introductions by Harbour Executives.
- First Minister (FM) reiterated commitment to a just transition for the North East, noting that his government is absolutely committed to delivering Scotland's climate obligations and also supporting businesses, workers and communities to seize every opportunity from the energy transition
- Stakeholders commented that it is heartening for business in the North East for government to demonstrate commitment by making the visit to the Port which is an integral part of the economy and the transition, but that challenges lie ahead.
- Stakeholders commented on recent challenges – the failure of the Aberdeen Green Freeport bid and the need for decisive action on the ACORN CCUS cluster – including the previous administration's rhetoric around the "presumption against" new oil and gas exploration
- FM noted Scottish Government's recognition of the challenges inherent in accelerating the transition is why we have committed to a £500 million Just Transition Fund over the next ten years, and other investment

- FM noted that some levers for support remain reserved to UK Government, including decisions licensing in the North Sea, however the Scottish Government continues to press for matching commitments from rUK around support for the just transition
- Stakeholders noted their view that awarding Investment Zone status to the region would be a cornerstone in achieving full potential for Aberdeen to become the “Net Zero Capital of Europe”
- Stakeholders welcomed Scottish Government support for transformative projects such as the Energy Transition Zone and Hydrogen projects noting that investment in Skills will be critical to achieving a just transition
- FM noted that the North East has a strong record of working collaboratively between business, government and the non-profit development agencies, and this partnership approach would be crucial to tackle the challenges of a just transition to a fairer, greener economy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
 Head of Just Transition Fund  
 Domestic Climate Change

**7. Drax, Cruachan Power Station – 25/07/23**

No meeting minute taken. Visit not undertaken in ministerial capacity

**8. True North/FM/Colin McAllister – 27/07/23**

No meeting note held

**9. SSE/FM – Sloy Power Station 22/05/23**

<b>VISIT TO SLOY POWER STATION</b>	
<b>Minister</b>	Fist Minister
<b>Type of engagement</b>	Ministerial visit
<b>Date</b>	22 May 2023
<b>Who</b>	<u>In attendance:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finlay McCutcheon, Director of Onshore Renewables (Europe), SSE Renewables.</li> <li>• Jamie Maxton, Head of External Relations (Scotland), SSE Renewables</li> <li>• SSE Renewables personnel</li> </ul>
<b>Key Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FM was greeted by SSE Renewables and they discussed the role of hydro-electric generation in Scotland as well as the legacy of the 1943 Hydro-Electric Development (Scotland) Act, which kickstarted Scotland’s journey with hydro.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr McCutcheon provided FM with an overview of SSE and the operation of the site as they travelled together from the power station to Sloy Dam.</li> <li>• FM was shown around the dam's operations area and heard from engineers about Sloy's electricity generating capacity and role in increasing the resilience of our electricity system.</li> <li>• Following the party's return to the power station, FM met with SSE apprentices and heard about the different parts of their training programme.</li> <li>• FM did a series of bids to camera, including STV and SSE Renewables own media team. FM outlined Scottish Government actions to support the development of hydroelectric power in Scotland, including a letter to Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP calling for a market support mechanism for long-duration energy storage such as pumped hydro storage; published alongside this visit.</li> </ul>
<b>Attending Officials</b>	<p>[REDACTED] Head of Onshore Electricity Policy  [REDACTED] Energy Policy Officer  [REDACTED] Deputey Private Secretary  [REDACTED] Media Manager  [REDACTED] Visits and Events Manager</p>
<b>Comment</b>	<p>The First Minister was well received by SSE Renewables with positive engagement on the benefits of hydro-electric power and pumped hydro storage.</p>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Government officials to organise a round table discussion between FM, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Just Transitions, Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy, SSE Renewables and other external stakeholders to discuss how Scottish Government can further support hydroelectric developments in Scotland and develop a market mechanism to support long-duration energy storage, including pumped hydro storage.</li> <li>• Scottish Government officials to engage with SSE Renewables further on a market support mechanism for long-duration energy storage such as pumped hydro storage.</li> </ul>
<b>Copy list</b>	<p>First Minister  DG Economy  DG Net Zero  Kersti Berge  Ragne Low  Frances Pacitti  [REDACTED]  [REDACTED]  [REDACTED]  [REDACTED]  [REDACTED]  [REDACTED]  [REDACTED]  [REDACTED]</p>

## Minute of Meeting – First Minister and Keith Anderson, Chief Executive, Scottish Power

Wednesday 5 July 2023, 10:15 – 10:45

### St Andrew's House

#### Attendees

The First Minister

Keith Anderson, Chief Executive Scottish Power (KA)

Michelle Cullis, Senior Corporate Affairs Manager Scottish Power

Ragne Low, DD Onshore Electricity (RL)

#### Discussion

1. KA set out the scale of investment Scottish Power is making in Scotland through its renewables and networks businesses. The current eastern subsea cable project alone represented £2bn of investment. The past few years have been tough for the retail business, and future energy cost forecasts are still high. **[REDACTED]**
2. The FM and KA discussed ways to decouple gas and electricity prices, and the benefits of a social tariff, and noted that the UK Government is not engaging urgently with either proposal.
3. KA said speed was the key challenge for Scottish Power – speed of planning decisions, speed of workforce expansion, and speed of supply chain readiness. He noted that the UK cannot compete with the stimulus of the US Inflation Reduction Act but can boost competitiveness through creating the right regulatory environment, increasing investor confidence. Scottish Power already punches above its weight in the wider Ibedrola Group in terms of attracting capital investment.
4. The FM noted there are key things, such as taking a more strategic approach to the development pipeline, and planning, that the Scottish Government has responsibility for and where will continue to work with the sector. There are also areas where we need to collaborate with the UK Government to unlock action.
5. The FM agreed that supply chain and workforce are critical to get right. KA highlighted where cross-sector work could help drive progress. On supply chain, Scottish Power is working with the other Transmission companies and Ofgem to find ways to provide certainty to supply chain investors through long-term contracting/procurement. This could significantly boost domestic content, creating jobs and export opportunities. On workforce, Scottish Power is in discussion with **[REDACTED]** on digital and cyber skills.
6. The FM and KA agreed the opportunities from hydrogen are vast. KA emphasised that the key thing is to create the market for hydrogen; something that Scottish Power's projects are seeking to demonstrate.

## **Actions**

- Officials to work with Scottish Power to agree a time for a meeting on hydrogen, supply chain, workforce/skills and planning, including Mr Gray, Ms Martin and Ms McAllan. Likely to need a half day, and could be combined with a visit to Whitelee.
- Scottish Power to share further information with officials (RL) about their work on providing supply chain certainty via long-term contracting, and the discussions with PWC on skills.
- Scottish Power to share a summary of their hydrogen work.