



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**

Humza Yousaf MSP
The First Minister
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Dear Humza,

Congratulations on your appointment. On behalf of the business community of the North East of Scotland, I wish you well in the role and hope that we see a renewed focus by the Scottish Government on economic growth, job creation, driving productivity and ensuring that Scotland flourishes.

Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce appreciates you taking the time to engage with the priorities of our 1,200-strong membership over the course of a busy campaign. In particular, we were encouraged by your ambition to turn the North East from a region of huge energy potential to a 'genuine renewable superpower'. This shared mission will take considerable investment by both the private and public sector, a concerted focus on creating the skills we need in this industry and a frank recognition that North Sea oil and gas will play a vital role in underpinning our economy and our domestic energy requirements for many years to come as Scotland moves towards to net zero. It cannot be overstated how critical it is that we get this transition right.

We also welcome your commitment in terms of ensuring that the North East of Scotland has the transport infrastructure we need to remain our nation's economic powerhouse. We are working closely with the Campaign for North East Rail to make rail from Aberdeen to Peterhead and Fraserburgh a reality and look forward to engaging with your government to deliver this transformational project.

On the wider question of building a better working relationship between government and business, we hope to see early signs of this much needed 'reset' in the practice of the government you lead. As you acknowledge, if businesses are to be at the heart of building a more prosperous Scotland, we must be central to consultation on policy and always at the table in the decision-making process.

Finally, I wish to extend an early invitation for you to visit the North East of Scotland in the coming weeks, to meet with our members who represent a broad cross-section of business employing over 100,000 people, to listen to their concerns and, in turn, deliver upon their priorities. Perhaps you'd be good enough to ask your office to contact Heather Morrell on heather.morrell@agcc.co.uk / 01224 343918 to arrange this.

Yours
Russell Borthwick

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive
Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce



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