



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**

Alan Whitelaw
Property Director
Government Property Agency,
Floor 9, 23 Stephenson Street,
Birmingham
B2 4BH

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The Hub
Exploration Drive
Aberdeen Energy Park
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8GX

—
T 01224 343900
E info@agcc.co.uk
www.agcc.co.uk

16 January 2024

Dear Alan

As you can see from the attached correspondence, we are delighted with news of the relocation of DESNZ roles to Aberdeen.

Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce (AGCC) is Scotland's largest Chamber representing over 1,200 organisations in the North-east region collectively employing over 100,000 people. Around 30% of these are engaged across all elements of the energy sector.

AGCC sits at the heart of 'Team Aberdeen', are a co-author and key delivery partner of the Regional Economic Strategy and have a central role in our regional narrative, celebrating everything that already makes this an incredible place to live, work, visit, study, invest and do business. But we are restless in seeking to make it even better.

From Graham Stuart's letter we understand that due diligence is already underway by your department. And I imagine that lots of organisations will be seeking to contact you!

Our offer is this. We'd like to simplify the process for you by creating a single point of contact for all correspondence and queries you may have. To convince you that a city centre location is optimal in terms of proximity to other key agencies as well as to supporting our regeneration efforts. And to provide collateral that presents compelling reasons for relocation here.

We'd be delighted to arrange a video call or to meet with the relevant members of your team in person - either in Aberdeen or London.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive

Cc'd: Jeremy Quin MP; Alex Burghart MP; Graham Stuart MP

Enc: Letter to Graham Stuart MP re DESNZ relocation and associated response to Bob Keiller



Registered in Scotland as a company limited by Guarantee
Registration number SCO 000 791
VAT Number 265 3165 59
Registered Office: The Hub, Exploration Drive, Aberdeen
Energy Park, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB23 8GX



The Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
55 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2HP

—
The Hub
Exploration Drive
Aberdeen Energy Park
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB23 8GX

12 December 2023

—
T 01224 343900
E info@agcc.co.uk
www.agcc.co.uk

Dear Graham,

I am writing to welcome your announcement today confirming that the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero is to establish a second HQ in Aberdeen. This is great news for our city, which, as you know, has been at the heart of the UK's energy sector for over half a century.

Being central to the drive to develop and deliver green energy solutions is, undoubtedly, a bigger and longer term economic opportunity for the UK and the Aberdeen city region than when oil was first discovered in the North Sea. We are well placed to once again be at the vanguard of innovation and change. The North-east of Scotland can be pivotal to driving this positive change if we do the right things now.

To meet our ambitious targets, we must harness the collective expertise, innovation and skills built up in the area over the last 50+ years across major operators, the biggest concentration of energy supply chain companies in Europe, a 45,000-strong offshore energy sector workforce, universities, agencies and other partners.

And it makes perfect sense to have a significant DESNZ presence in the city as part of this globally unique eco-system sitting alongside other key institutions, such as the North Sea Transition Authority, Net Zero Technology Centre, Energy Transition Zone, National Subsea Centre, National Decommissioning Centre, Advanced Manufacturing Skills Hub and the National Floating Wind Innovation Centre to name just a few.

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We sit at the heart of 'Team Aberdeen', are a co-author and key delivery partner of the Regional Economic Strategy and have a central role in our regional narrative, celebrating everything that already makes this an incredible place to live, work, visit, study, invest and do business. But we are restless in seeking to make it even better.

The North-east of Scotland is a region of around half a million people yet through the centuries it has punched well above its weight in terms of influence around the globe. However, it isn't sitting on its laurels with over £6 billion of infrastructure, regeneration and culture projects completed since 2017 and a further £16billion+ of initiatives due to be realised over the next 10 years (not including the local supply chain value of renewables projects such as Scotwind, INTOG and Acorn).

All providing a unique, 21st century environment for residents, businesses and visitors alike. You can view a snapshot of this here:

<https://www.agcc.co.uk/investment-tracker> | <https://abzolutely.com/aberdeen-narrative-city-region>

As you now turn your focus to where in the city your new headquarters should be located and to making the move attractive to staff and their families, the Chamber is delighted to offer its support- and that of our members- to make the set up as seamless as possible. I know our colleagues at *Our Union Street* have also written doing likewise.

I look forward to hearing from you – and thanks again for your part in making this move happen.

Yours sincerely,



Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive



Our Union Street
The Union Street Pavilion
Union Terrace Gardens
Aberdeen
AB10 1NJ

01224 343926
bob@ourunionstreet.com
www.ourunionstreet.com

12th December 2023

The Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP

Dear Graham

I am writing to welcome your announcement today confirming that 200 employees of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero will relocate from Whitehall to Aberdeen.

This is great news for our city, which, as you know, has proudly been at the heart of the UK's energy sector for over half a century.

As you now turn your focus to where your new headquarters should be located, I would like to bring to your attention a huge community effort which is driving the regeneration of our city centre.

I was recently asked to lead a new organisation which is rather unique. **Our Union Street** is a community-led initiative which aspires to restore our main high street to its former glory.

This new partnership has brought together Aberdeen City Council, the Aberdeen Inspired Business Improvement District, Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, plus a number of others, including the region's economic development group, local companies and, most importantly, the public.

We have existed for just eight months, but one thing has come through loud and clear, the people of Aberdeen really care about Union Street. More than 10,000 ideas to regenerate the street have been put forward by the public in that short time.

This newly-ignited civic pride – alongside a rates revaluation which has reduced business rates for vast swathes of our city centre – has given us an enormous opportunity to line this famous street with shops, offices and vibrancy once more.

Your government is already playing a huge part. Thanks to £20million of Levelling Up Funding, construction is underway on a new flagship food and drinks market which will be the catalyst for regeneration on Central Union Street.

But to make this project, and the wider community efforts, a success, we need people living, working and shopping in our main high street.

Therefore, my ask of you is simple; please give consideration to locating your department in Aberdeen City Centre.

I know that your role regularly brings you to the North-east. I would welcome the opportunity to host you at our city centre hub to share some of the work being done, and to show how your officials would benefit from the huge sums you are already investing here.

In the meantime, I have asked the commercial property agents which have engaged in our project to collectively draw up a shortlist of suitable premises, which I will share with you in due course.

I look forward to hearing from you – and thanks again for your part in making this move happen.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Keiller

Bob Keiller CBE
Chairman
Our Union Street



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Energy Security and Net
Zero

**Department for Energy Security & Net
Zero**
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP

www.gov.uk

Mr Bob Keiller CBE
Our Union Street
The Union Street Pavilion
Union Terrace Gardens
Aberdeen
AB10 1NJ

Our ref: MCB2023/25659

10 January 2024

Dear Mr Keiller,

Thank you for your letter of 12 December welcoming the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's announcement about Aberdeen.

The Government is proud of its association and presence in Aberdeen, it being the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero's longest-standing office location apart from London, through the connection with North Sea oil and its ancillary industries and businesses. It is entirely fitting that we establish one of our headquarter locations in Aberdeen which will strengthen this successful relationship.

I was interested to read about the 'Our Union Street' initiative, and of the use of the levelling-up funding for the food and drinks market. This is an important and exciting community initiative for regeneration, and I offer my best wishes for its success.

The Government Property Agency has already started its assessment and planning regarding optimising the Government estate needs in the city. I will ensure it is aware of the 'Our Union Street' initiative so this can be factored into its planning. The potential location options from your commercial planning agents will be helpful.

Finally, thank you for your kind offer to host a visit to the city centre hub as and when I or one of my ministerial colleagues visit Aberdeen.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Energy Security and Net Zero