



The Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
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12 December 2023

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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.

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.

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