

Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work
and Energy
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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive
Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce
The Hub, Exploration Drive
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Aberdeen
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21 December 2023

Dear Russell,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 12 December 2023 about the recent UK Government announcement to move Department for Energy Security and Net Zero jobs to Aberdeen. I am responding on behalf of the First Minister in my capacity as Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work and Energy.

The Scottish Government welcomes these - as with any - new jobs. We are currently awaiting sight of further details on the UK Government's plans.

The First Minister has been clear that Aberdeen and the North East of Scotland can be the net zero capital of Europe and is key to our energy transition. Our draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan sets out a clear vision for how we will ensure the energy sector in Aberdeen continues to unlock the enormous economic opportunities the transition presents.

As part of this commitment, Scottish Government Ministers and officials regularly engage with stakeholders in Aberdeen and the North East, including businesses across the energy sectors, academic institutions and trade unions. We very much look forward to this engagement continuing and deepening as we move towards publication of the final Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan next year.

In terms of your proposition that additional Scottish Government officials be relocated to Aberdeen, we currently have over 250 civil servants based in the area with the majority of these staff working at the Marine Laboratory as part of our Directorate-General for Net Zero. The Scottish Government is committed to flexible hybrid working for our workforce, enabling staff to work from a range of settings. This approach allows us to support and maximise opportunities to promote strong engagement with partners and stakeholders in communities across the whole of Scotland.

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In addition, the Scottish Government estate is under review to allow us to plan for affordable, inclusive, accessible, modern, secure, energy efficient buildings of the right size to meet our changing needs and net zero ambitions, as well as to ensure best value for taxpayers' money. We continue to monitor the size, deployment and location of the Civil Service workforce to best meet the needs of the communities we serve.

I hope this letter provides assurance of our commitment to working in partnership with businesses in the North East, and across Scotland, as part of a just transition to a net zero economy and society.



NEIL GRAY

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