



Keir Starmer MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

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

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

Dear Sir Keir

I just wanted to repeat how much we appreciated you bringing your team to Aberdeen last week to see first-hand how this region can be a key partner in delivering your mission to make the UK a clean energy superpower.

As we discussed, if you are to form the next government of the UK, the policy choices you make will have to find the right balance when it comes to keeping the lights on and meeting our climate targets. I hope that some of the points explored during the course of the roundtable will help you form a comprehensive energy strategy that achieves both, while protecting the 200,000 jobs in the sector today and creating many more besides.

Currently, as demonstrated by the 38<sup>th</sup> edition of the Chamber's Energy Transition survey, confidence is low in terms of the investability of the North Sea, availability of future skills and in perceptions around Labour's current energy policies. <https://www.agcc.co.uk/files/Energy-Transition-38-Report.pdf>

We want to work with you in partnership to shift the dial on all these fronts.

At the session, compelling evidence was presented from the recent DNV report, of future global and domestic energy demand and supply, confirming that oil & gas will remain a key part of the mix for decades to come. [Download your copy.](#)

"Following the evidence" was a theme that emerged a number of times during the discussions on Thursday. The evidence and experience of recent global headwinds on energy tell us that we do indeed need to accelerate the pace of change towards a low carbon future. At the same time, we should source what we need from domestic sources insofar as this is possible – with a lower carbon footprint and a regulatory environment that we can be confident in. To this end, we want to work closely with you to make decarbonising operations in the North Sea a central part of your strategy.

There is a sense that many of the companies represented around the table - major employers and innovators once feted as UK industrial pioneers - are now being demonised.

They are not the problem but hold the keys to the solution and have the capital, capacity and skills to partner with you to successfully tackle the biggest issue of our times. As one attendee remarked: "The first one paying for the second one".

To enable this to happen, the narrative has to change. We need a much more reasoned and balanced national discourse explaining that transition is, a change of state...over time.

Furthermore, if a central plank of transition for political leaders is to ensure it is 'just' then we cannot play fast and loose with the jobs that depend upon the energy sector.

The UK is uniquely placed to be at the forefront of developing and delivering the new green energy technologies we need, however unpredictable and punitive fiscal conditions, grid limitations and red tape tangled regulatory processes will allow other markets around the world to steal a march. Addressing these barriers is a matter of utmost urgency.

In summary I hope that on your visit, you saw enough to reinforce the world-leading energy expertise and eco-system that exists in the North-east of Scotland and that, given the right conditions, it can support a future Labour government to deliver energy security, low carbon solutions and achieve our climate targets. Did we mention there's nowhere else in Scotland it would make sense to set up GB Energy HQ?!

I hope that you and your team were happy with the arrangements made by Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce and True North and we would be delighted to facilitate follow-up from this visit and future engagement with the region's business community.

Kindest Regards,



Russell Borthwick  
**Chief Executive**