



**Aberdeen &  
Grampian  
Chamber of  
Commerce**

**Humza Yousaf MSP  
The First Minister  
The Scottish Government  
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29 March 2023

*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](mailto: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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Heather Morrell  
Heather.morrell@agcc.co.uk

Our Reference: 202300349821

26 April 2023

Dear Heather Morrell ,

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 March to the First Minister, offering your congratulations and sharing your views on economic growth, job creation and ensuring that Scotland flourishes as a result of the energy transition.

Mr Yousaf has asked me to pass on his thanks for your congratulations and words of support. Mr Yousaf has also requested that I reiterate his reassurance that he is fully committed to working towards The Scottish Government's vision that, by 2045, Scotland will have a flourishing, climate friendly energy system that delivers affordable, resilient and clean energy supplies for Scotland's households, communities and businesses.

As I'm sure you're aware, on the 10 January 2023 the Scottish Government published the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (ESJTP). The ESJTP sets out our vision for the future of Scotland's energy system and the actions needed to deliver this. The transition will deliver maximum benefit for Scotland, enabling us to achieve our wider climate and environmental ambitions, drive the development of a wellbeing economy and deliver a Just Transition for all our workers, businesses, communities and regions.

Our draft Plan proposes a vision for a just energy transition that benefits communities across Scotland, provides high-quality jobs and economic benefit, delivers affordability, and protects our environment and our energy security. A truly just transition is as much about the process, the way in which all of Scotland's people are involved in shaping the decisions that will impact them, as it is the outcome.

The energy transition offers significant opportunities for Scotland's economy, providing benefits for Scotland's people and communities. To maximise these benefits, we will secure private investment and seek to strengthen and support Scotland's companies, equip workers with the skills and opportunities to

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access good, green jobs, and explore opportunities to boost international exports. We will work with our enterprise agencies, business and investors to attract the required capital and inward investment to deliver Scotland's net zero ambition and export potential.

As Mr Yousaf said in his first Parliamentary statement as the new First Minister:

***"We will make our public transport system more accessible, available and affordable."***

The second National Transport Strategy (NTS2) sets out an ambitious and compelling vision for our transport system for the next 20 years, one that protects the climate and improves lives. It advocates a vision for Scotland's transport system that will help create great places - a sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system, helping deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for its communities, businesses and visitors.

We are also calling on the UK Government to work with us through establishment of an Energy Transition taskforce, to deliver tangible action to drive the energy transition.

Mr Yousaf has noted the priorities and supporting measures contained within your correspondence and although he would be interested in meeting to discuss further, unfortunately due to considerable diary pressures, he is unable to accept your invitation on this occasion. Please accept his apologies.

I want to thank you again for your correspondence as we move forward with our commitment to ensuring a green economic recovery while remaining aligned to our net zero ambitions.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Macfarlane  
**OESC : Strategic Co-ordination & EU Exit**

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