



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**

Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Minister of State for Immigration
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04 May 2023

Dear Mr Jenrick,

Offshore wind workers Immigration Rules concession

I write in reference to the above-mentioned scheme which expired on 30th April.

The removal of this concession will have a significant impact upon a number of member organisations that we represent and their ability to support the construction and maintenance of offshore wind projects in UK territorial waters.

When questions around energy security and the UK's transition to net zero are paramount in government policymaking, this is an unwanted obstacle at a time when recruitment from the domestic workforce could not be more challenging.

We hope that you will, in the first instance, consider granting a further six-month extension to this concession, the end of which and its effects have not been communicated properly with the sector.

Furthermore, we hope to now have urgent and open discussions on designing a better immigration system which supports businesses operating in our waters to secure, attract and retain the workforce they need to support the deployment and operations of offshore wind projects over the medium term.

As the Chamber of Commerce representing over 1,200 organisations operating in the North-east of Scotland — many of whom are in the energy sector — we would happily convene a roundtable of businesses affected who could help the Government to design that better system and chart a way forward which can unlock our vast renewables potential.

I would be grateful if you could give this request your careful consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Russell Borthwick
Chief Executive
Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

Copy to:
Andrew Bowie as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero



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DECS Reference: MIN/0577273/23

18 May 2023

Dear Mr Borthwick,

Thank you for your letter of 4 May about the immigration arrangements for offshore wind farm workers.

The offshore wind farm worker concession ended on 30 April 2023 and is not going to be renewed. Concessions are only put in place during temporary, exceptional circumstances. The date the concession was ending has been available on the GOV.UK website since October 2022.

All workers must have permission before they start work in UK waters. For those without existing permission, this will normally mean obtaining a work visa. Foreign nationals who arrive directly into UK waters for the purposes of working are considered to be an offshore worker under section [11A 1971 Act](#), unless an exemption applies.

UK waters are the territorial waters (12 nautical miles from the UK coastline) and all internal waters. All offshore workers need permission to work before they start work in the UK. More information, including the notification requirements for offshore workers, can be found at: [Offshore workers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

With the ending of free movement, this Government will not seek to create immigration routes for specific sectors or for those who would meet the now much broader skills threshold for our main economic migration route, the Skilled Worker route.

More information about employing foreign national workers in the UK can be found at: [Workers and Temporary Workers - guidance for sponsors part 1: apply for a licence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

[Sponsorship: guidance for employers and educators - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

[Skilled Worker visa: Apply from outside the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Minister of State for Immigration