



The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

10 February 2023

Dear Prime Minister

As the North-east of Scotland's leading business membership organisation, representing several hundred companies in the UK's energy sector, we were encouraged to see the establishment for a dedicated Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Our region will be at the forefront of Britain's transition to net zero which can, in turn, deliver long-term energy security and unlock sustainable jobs and prosperity for many decades to come.

The 2021 Declaration on Government Reform policy paper committed to relating 22,000 civil service roles outside of London by 2030, including 50% of senior civil servants. It stated that the UK Government "will look beyond London to all corners of the UK, as part of our mission to be a government more like the country we serve".

With a new standalone Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), there is a perfect opportunity to deliver on that levelling-up ambition.

Aberdeen is Europe's Energy Capital. By bringing the headquarters of DESNZ to Aberdeen it would sit alongside other key institutions, such as the North Sea Transition Authority, Net Zero Technology Centre, Energy Transition Zone and the two universities leading on research and new technology to achieve net zero. Furthermore, it would place the Department in proximity to an industry undergoing an exciting, yet nevertheless challenging transition — a transition that is critical we get right. Aberdeen is home to major North Sea operators, the biggest concentration of energy supply chain companies in the UK and a 45,000-strong offshore energy sector workforce.

The recent ScotWind licensing round has approved developments that will generate 28GW of offshore wind power, over 70% of which are within 100 nautical miles of Aberdeen. our East coast ports are investing to deliver these huge projects, the Scottish Cluster for CCUS awaits the green light and Aberdeen is already developing scalable green hydrogen production through a public-private sector Hydrogen Hub venture.

Situating DESNZ alongside this activity in the North-east of Scotland would create a winning relationship between industry and government as we rise to the shared objective of providing energy security and achieving net zero.

We offer the full support of the Aberdeen and Grampian business community in developing and delivering on this proposal.

Yours sincerely



**Russell Borthwick**  
Chief Executive

cc Simon Case, Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Civil Service

Andrew Bowie MP, Under Secretary of State at the Department  
for Energy Security and Net Zero

Alister Jack MP, Secretary of State for Scotland

Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing  
and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations