



**Aberdeen &
Grampian
Chamber of
Commerce**

Sir Keir Starmer MP
Leader of the official opposition
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20 January 2023

Dear Sir Keir,

We wish to raise concern with you regarding your statements in opposition to new oil and gas fields in the North Sea.

Firstly, I find it very difficult to understand how Labour can form an energy policy, as I know how little you and your parliamentary colleagues have engaged with industry and the North-east of Scotland.

Your support for renewables is welcome, but like the Scottish Government last week, the position you have set out on oil and gas suggests a fundamental misunderstanding of the energy transition, and the requirement for hydrocarbons to both bridge and fund it.

The energy transition is going to take 25 years or more and there is quite clearly a sustained period of time where oil and gas will remain a crucial part of our energy mix, as accepted by the Climate Change Committee.

So, we have two options; to produce more domestically, with full control over the regulatory environment in which it is extracted; or to import an increasing amount of our energy, with the heavier carbon toll that shipping it from other parts of the world carries. The latter makes little economic sense, and even less environmental sense - and opinion polls are consistently showing that the public back this view.

We note your acceptance of £360,000 from a donor fundamental to financing the Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion groups. This is ill-judged and has been met with disbelief in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, and among the wider 200,000+ workers employed in the oil and gas sector which they seek to destroy.

We believe you and your front bench should hear a balanced view from the people and companies delivering energy security for the UK today, while ploughing billions into the low-carbon energy sources of tomorrow.

To that end, we wish to invite you and members of your shadow cabinet to Aberdeen as soon as possible for a discussion with industry leaders and unions about the job-destroying path you have chosen to take.

Yours sincerely,

Ryan Crighton
Policy Director
Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce



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