

Alex Lee
[By Email: alee@foe.soct]

Our ref: 202300378265
22 November 2023

Dear Alex Lee

**REQUEST UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION (SCOTLAND)
REGULATIONS 2004 (EIRs)**

Thank you for your request dated 27 September 2023 under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

Your request

You asked for:

- *'Any correspondence which includes or is directly to or from the Scottish Government's Minister for Energy and the Environment, Gillian Martin, both in her role as minister and before she became minister, which mentions the Peterhead CCGT power station development by SSE, from 01 January 2022 up to present?'*

Response to your request

As the information you have requested is 'environmental information' for the purposes of the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIRs), we are required to deal with your request under those Regulations. We are applying the exception at section 39(2) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), so that we do not also have to deal with your request under FOISA.

This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception, because there is no

public interest in dealing with the same request under two different regimes. This is essentially a technical point and has no material effect on the outcome of your request.

I have enclosed a copy of the information you requested below in [Annex B](#).

On reviewing material within scope of your request, exceptions have been applied in line with EIRs. The exceptions and relevant public interest tests can be found in [Annex A](#).

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your EIR request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response, by emailing Director of Energy and Climate Change, Kersti Berge at Kersti.Berge@gov.scot.

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review in accordance with the EIRs as soon as possible, and not later than 20 working days from the day following the date we receive your review request.

If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to appeal to the Scottish Information Commissioner. More detailed information on your appeal rights is available on the Commissioner's website [here](#).

Yours sincerely

Kirsteen Macleod
Hub Manager

When considering your request it has been found that some sections of the information identified does not fall in scope of your request and therefore has been removed.

Please find below the exceptions applied to relevant information in your request:

- Under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs, we do not have to give you information which is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format. If, however, you do not have internet access to obtain this information from the website(s) listed, then please contact me again and I will send you a paper copy.

You can find some of the information you have requested here:

- [Analysis of Consultation Responses for the Draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan](#)
- Some information has been withheld under regulation 10(4)(e) (internal communication). This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception.

We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in releasing the information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, this is outweighed by the greater public interest in allowing Scottish Government officials and ministers a private space to share free and frank views for the purpose of deliberation of any given policy.

- Some information has been withheld under regulation 10(5)(f) (Third Party Interests). This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception.

We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in releasing the information as part of an open, transparent and accountable government. However, this is outweighed by the greater public interest in allowing external organisations the ability to engage with the Scottish Government with the strict understanding that their correspondence is held in confidence unless otherwise agreed.

- Additionally, information has been redacted from the documents disclosed under Regulation 11 – Personal Data, as it contains personal information and disclosing it would contravene the data protection principles in Article 5(1) of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and in Section 34(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

This exception is not subject to the 'public interest test'.



Gillian Martin MSP
Minister for Energy
The Scottish Government
St. Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Friday 31st March 2023

Dear Minister,

Warmest congratulations from SSE on your appointment as Minister for Energy. As the country's leading low-carbon energy infrastructure business – investing £15bn in Scotland this decade alone – I would like to affirm our strongest commitment to working in close partnership with you to achieve a fair and prosperous net zero future.

About SSE

Headquartered in Perth, SSE is a FTSE100 company and proud to be Scotland's largest listed company. We currently employ more than 12,000 people and are creating a further 1,000 green jobs every year under our 5-year, 1.5°C pathway-aligned Net Zero Acceleration Programme.

Our priority as a business is to build a cheaper, cleaner and more secure energy system, with a core focus on renewables and regulated electricity networks. This includes the transmission and distribution networks in the north of Scotland which will play a key role in unleashing Scotland's vast renewable energy potential.

At the same time, our renewables business is building more offshore wind than anyone else in the world, including Seagreen, Scotland's largest offshore wind farm, and we plan to go even further by bringing the world's largest offshore wind opportunity, Berwick Bank, to Scottish shores. We are also exporting Scottish renewable capability around the world, with development portfolios across Southern Europe and Japan.

Investing in Scotland

We are investing more than £3,000 per head of Scottish population in low-carbon projects this decade, with development and construction already out of the blocks on major investments – supporting communities, creating jobs and supply chain opportunities, while cutting carbon emissions:

- Coire Glas pumped storage hydro, the biggest engineering project in the Highlands

- Viking Onshore Wind Farm, the UK's largest onshore wind farm by output
- The Shetland link that will connect the islands to the mainland grid for the first time ever
- £10bn investment in Europe's fastest growing transmission network to meet 2030 targets & unlock ScotWind
- Transforming the distribution network to enable the scale-up of EVs and low carbon heating systems
- Scotland's first power CCS project at Peterhead, creating £660m GVA and 240 jobs

SSE believes bold action by governments, businesses and society is needed now more than ever in the battle to tackle the simultaneous energy crises of affordability, security, and climate change. And we stand ready to invest record amounts in homegrown wind, hydro, solar, battery, CCS and hydrogen – bolstering the economy while growing our international reputation as a leader in climate action.

Yours Sincerely,

SSE plc

sse.com

Cc: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>;
 [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED
 UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@scotland.police.uk>; [REDACTED
 UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; Visits and Events
 <VisitsandEvents@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister
 <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED
 UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work &
 Energy <CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot>; Minister for Energy and the Environment
 <MinisterEE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition
 <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen
 <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>;
 [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED
 UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG
 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]<
 [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED
 UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG

11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>

Subject: SpAd view // Proposal for FM - Tue 18 July - SSE Peterhead

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

SSE has said that as the power station is a live site media would have to be on a pooled basis to keep numbers to a minimum.

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

FM visit proposal – SSE Peterhead Power Station, 18 July 2023

Opportunity for the First Minister to tour the gas-powered Peterhead Power Station, which is awaiting green light from the UK Government on whether the ACORN carbon capture and storage (CCS) decarbonisation project can proceed.

As Scotland's biggest carbon emitter, Peterhead Power Station is the main emitter underpinning the ACORN project's ambition to transport carbon emissions for storage under the North Sea. It is critical to Scotland's national infrastructure as it supports energy supply in times when renewable sources (eg wind) are unable to maintain supply due to weather conditions. Greenlight on ACORN would enable it to continue to support energy supply as well as local employment in the energy sector.

FM would have the option to tour the power station during a shutdown period of summer maintenance, visiting the turbine hall to meet some of the dozen or so apprentices working at the site whose future careers rely on the Scottish Cluster of CCS projects progressing as part of making the power station compatible with net zero targets as part of a just transition.

SSE can also offer a presentation in the site library providing background on the existing site and outlining future plans for CCS on its site and broader benefits, which include the opportunity to turn Scotland into a CO2 input hub to support the net zero ambitions not just of Scotland but of the rest of the UK.

First Minister would then have an opportunity to undertake pooled media bids in the power station.

PPE required

Reflective jackets, safety boots and hard hats (SSE has a large store of these which can be provided onsite). Attendees may also have to take part in a safety induction on arrival to site.

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Other relevant info

All attendees must view a safety and security briefing video prior to being allowed access on site. This can be viewed at the guardhouse at the site perimeter, or SSE can share in advance with SG for distribution to SG attendees and to press.

Sensitivities

- **[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]**
- **[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]**

Many thanks,
[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]
m: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

Senior Media Manager | First Minister | Scottish Government |
media enquiries (call group): 0300 244 9020 | Media enquiries - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

From: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>
Sent: 15 July 2023 19:07
To: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED
UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG
11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]
<[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>
Cc: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>;
Communications First Minister <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED
UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG
11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSE Peterhead site // RE: Potential FM visit Tue 18 July

Hi All,

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

At present, the application has received a holding objection from SEPA, one of our statutory consultees, and they have subsequently requested further information be provided by the applicant on air quality, air quality modelling and emissions. This objection is publicly accessible on the ECU website: [Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details](#)

We anticipate that the applicant will shortly be submitting further additional information in response to the comments noted above from SEPA, as well as for comments on climate change matters made by Friends of the Earth (which can be viewed under 'representation 002 004 Objection' using the above link).

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Thanks

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

From: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2023 6:32 PM
To: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>;
[REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED
UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG
11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]
<[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>;
Communications First Minister <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED
UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG
11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>
Subject: SSE Peterhead site // RE: Potential FM visit Tue 18 July

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

I think it is this application on the Energy Consents website [Scottish Government - Energy Consents Unit - Application Details](#) though it does not specifically reference SSE.

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

FM visit proposal – SSE Peterhead Power Station, 18 July 2023

Opportunity for the First Minister to tour the gas-powered Peterhead Power Station, which is awaiting green light from the UK Government on whether the ACORN carbon capture and storage (CCS) decarbonisation project can proceed.

As Scotland's biggest carbon emitter, Peterhead Power Station is the main emitter underpinning the ACORN project's ambition to transport carbon emissions for storage under the North Sea. It is critical to Scotland's national infrastructure as it supports energy supply in times when renewable sources (eg wind) are unable to maintain supply due to weather conditions. Greenlight on ACORN would enable it to continue to support energy supply as well as local employment in the energy sector.

FM would have the option to tour the power station during a shutdown period of summer maintenance, visiting the turbine hall to meet some of the dozen or so apprentices working at the site whose future careers rely on the Scottish Cluster of CCS projects progressing as part of making the power station compatible with net zero targets as part of a just transition.

SSE can also offer a presentation in the site library providing background on the existing site and outlining future plans for CCS on its site and broader benefits, which include the opportunity to turn Scotland into a CO2 input hub to support the net zero ambitions not just of Scotland but of the rest of the UK.

First Minister would then have an opportunity to undertake pooled media bids in the power station.

PPE required

Reflective jackets, safety boots and hard hats (SSE has a large store of these which can be provided onsite).

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Other relevant info

All attendees must view a safety and security briefing video prior to being allowed access on site. This can be viewed at the guardhouse at the site perimeter, or SSE can share in advance with SG for distribution to SG attendees and to press.

Sensitivities

- **[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]**

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

m: **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**

Senior Media Manager | First Minister | Scottish Government |

media enquiries (call group): 0300 244 9020 | Media enquiries - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

From: Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>

Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2023 11:02 AM

To: **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@scotland.police.uk>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Visits and Events <VisitsandEvents@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot>; Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Potential FM visit Tue 18 July

Thanks, **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**.

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(5)(f)]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Thanks,
Tom

Tom Thomson

Special Adviser to the First Minister

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11].

tom.thomson@gov.scot

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary to the Scottish Government are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot.

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

From: Tom Thomson <Tom.Thomson@gov.scot>

Sent: Friday, July 14, 2023 10:19 PM

To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@scotland.police.uk>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>

Cc: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>; Visits and Events <VisitsandEvents@gov.scot>; Communications First Minister <CommunicationsFirstMinister@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Wellbeing Economy, Fair Work & Energy <CabSecWEFWE@gov.scot>; Minister for Energy and the Environment <MinisterEE@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Net Zero & Just Transition <CabSecTNZJT@gov.scot>

Subject: Re: Potential FM visit Tue 18 July

Thanks, [REDACTED UNDER REG 11].

Focus of visit is expected to be around SSE proposals for CCS energy plant. Briefing on that and also around locational marginal pricing I think would be particularly helpful.

I'm on duty this weekend so around for any queries if anyone would like to email, call or message on Teams.

Contact details for Niall:

Niall Murphy

Head of Public Affairs (Scotland)

SSE plc

Inveralmond House, Perth, PH1 3AQ

M: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@sse.com

sse.com

Thanks,
Tom

Tom Thomson

Special Adviser to the First Minister

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

tom.thomson@gov.scot

11]@scotland.police.uk>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@scotland.police.uk>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]< [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@scotland.police.uk>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@scotland.police.uk>; Spads Admin <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>

Subject: NEWS RELEASE TO CLEAR + media handling update // SSE Peterhead visit, Tue 18 July

FMPO,

Cc for awareness: as previous

Good afternoon,

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

PRESS POOL

STV

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11] (reporter)

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11] (camera)

Bauer

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

PA (also recording video)

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

Photos

Print – *Daily Mail* **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**

Wires – PA / **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**

Comms products

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Background

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Background

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Many thanks,

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

m: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

Senior Media Manager | First Minister | Scottish Government |

media enquiries (call group): 0300 244 9020 | Media enquiries - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

FM would have the option to tour the power station during a shutdown period of summer maintenance, visiting the turbine hall to meet some of the dozen or so apprentices working at the site whose future careers rely on the Scottish Cluster of CCS projects progressing as part of making the power station compatible with net zero targets as part of a just transition.

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PPE required

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[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Other relevant info

All attendees must view a safety and security briefing video prior to being allowed access on site. This can be viewed at the guardhouse at the site perimeter, or SSE can share in advance with SG for distribution to SG attendees and to press.

Sensitivities

- **[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]**
- **[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]**

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

Senior Media Manager
Communications Health and Social Care
Scottish Government
M: **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

From: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

Sent: 06 April 2023 13:24

To: Minister for Energy 2023 <MinisterEnergy@gov.scot>

Cc: Hogg A (Andrew) <Andrew.Hogg@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>; **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]** <**[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**@gov.scot>;

11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>

Subject: Agenda for Aberdeen Visit - Thursday 13 April - 09:30 - 12:30

Dear PO,

Please see below a summary of the agenda for Ms Martin's visit to Aberdeen on Thursday 13 April – full briefing will be provided on Tuesday 11 April as requested.

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Ms Martin will then attend the Scottish Cluster roundtable discussion to build relationships and discuss next steps on the back of the UK Government 'Powering Up Britain' announcements, which included details of the next stage of the CCUS cluster sequencing process (Track 2).

The Scottish Cluster is a group of Industrial Emitters that will be linked to the Acorn Transport and Storage (T&S) system by pipeline to take advantage of Oil and Gas legacy infrastructure, with the aim of capturing and permanently storing 5 Mega Tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year by 2030. These include:

- St Fergus – CO₂ extraction from St Fergus Gas at SAGE terminal, Acorn Carbon Capture and Acorn Hydrogen
- Peterhead – Storegga Direct Air Capture, Peterhead CCS Power station
- Central Belt – The Grangemouth Project, Fife Hydrogen Hub

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

Best,

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11] | Policy Adviser | Hydrogen Strategy Team | Energy Industries Division |
The Scottish Government | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ

ENERGY MINISTER ABERDEEN HYDROGEN AND CCUS VISIT – BRIEFING PACK

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

The Scottish Cluster

- The Scottish Cluster is a group of Industrial Emitters which will be linked to the Acorn Transport and Storage (T&S) system by pipeline to take advantage of Oil and Gas legacy infrastructure, with the aim of capturing and permanently storing 5 Mega Tonnes of CO₂-emissions per year by 2030. These include:
 - o St Fergus – CO₂ extraction from St Fergus Gas at SAGE terminal, Acorn Carbon Capture and Acorn Hydrogen

- o Peterhead – Storegga Direct Air Capture, Peterhead CCS Power station (SSE)
- o Central Belt – The Grangemouth Project, Fife Hydrogen Hub
- In October 2021, UKG announced the Scottish Cluster (led by the Acorn Project at St Fergus) was unsuccessful in the Track-1 competition, however it was confirmed as a Track-1 “reserve”.
- In March 2023 Budget, the UK Government announced £20 billion funding for CCUS projects (Track 1 projects in East and North West England, and North Wales), however none of this money was allocated to Scotland.
- Also in March 2023, the UKG published “Powering Up Britain” which also confirmed the Track 2 sequencing process to establish 2 further clusters by 2030, the UK government considers Acorn and Viking T&S systems as “best placed” to meet Track 2 eligibility (subject to due diligence and value for money assessments).
- The UK Government, whilst confirming that Acorn meets the Track 2 criteria, have, inexplicably decided to open up the Track 2 process by inviting other clusters to submit an expression of interest (EOI). Should any EOI be received by the end of April, that will necessitate a selection and assessment stage (competitive procurement). The expectation is that other clusters will submit an EOI.

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

From: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>
Sent: 01 June 2023 13:30
To: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>
Cc: McAllister C (Colin) <Colin.McAllister@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Hutchison D (David) (Special Adviser) <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@gov.scot>; McCaig C (Callum) <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: URGENT - Acorn

Hi [REDACTED UNDER REG 11],

Hopefully the following helps clarify things:

Background

- UKG allocated over £30 million in **development funding** to the Scottish Cluster in **2021**. This is **not for delivery** of Track 1 or Track 2 of the DESNZ Cluster Sequencing Programme. The significant industry and investor uncertainty around a lack of funding relates to there still being no confirmation of timing of and funding for the deployment of Acorn and the Scottish Cluster as part of the delayed Cluster Sequencing Programme.

Detail of Funding

- That funding was provided for the Scotland's Net Zero Infrastructure (SNZI) Programme as part of a £171 million funding package announced on 17 March 2021 under Innovate UK's Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund (ISCF). This funding forms part of the Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge.
 - SNZI brings together Pale Blue Dot, SSE Thermal, National Grid, Petrofac, LNG9/GB-Tron, Centre for Energy Policy at the University of Strathclyde, and NECCUS.
 - SNZI will be employed to develop net zero infrastructure for both Hydrogen and CCUS, including:
 - Detailed engineering for the Acorn CCS and Hydrogen projects to enable a final investment decision, and allow carbon abatement from the mid-2020s;
 - Developing a new CCS-equipped power station at Peterhead, capable of producing large volumes of predictable Net Zero 'base-load' power;
 - Options for the re-use of onshore pipelines to transport CO2 from large industrial clusters across the Central Belt and East Coast of Scotland to secure stores in the North Sea;
 - Engineering design for carbon capture on a new proposed gas-fired power station in Grangemouth; and
 - Development of a 'fabrication ready' design of CO2 tanker ship which can service the needs of coastal CO2 emitters around the UK for delivery to Scottish CO2 stores.
 - While the Scottish Cluster received £31 million in funding, it is not the only cluster that received funding as part of the Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge:
 - HyNet North West received £33 million in funding.
 - Members of the East Coast Cluster (i.e., Net Zero Teeside and Zero Carbon Humber) received around £50 million in funding.
 - The Northern Endurance Partnership, which will enable the East Coast Cluster, received £24 million in funding.
 - Humber Zero, focused on the Immingham Industrial Cluster, received £13 million in funding.
 - The South Wales Industrial Cluster received £20 million in funding.

Hope that's helpful.

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11].

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]- Head of CCUS and Industrial Decarbonisation - Directorate of Energy and Climate Change
Mob: **[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]**



If you receive this email late at night, early in the morning, or at the weekend - it means I am working flexibly. Flexibility works for me, but please do not feel that you should have to pick this up outside of your own normal working hours.

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

[OUT OF SCOPE OF REQUEST]

From: [REDACTED UNDER REG 11] <[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]@parliament.scot>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:21 AM
To: zzzMinister for Energy 2023 <MinisterEnergy@gov.scot>
Subject: Carbon Capture - Hardwick

Dear Minister

A constituent is enquiring whether the proposed carbon capture at the new gas powered plant at Peterhead in Aberdeen has been fully assessed and what proof do you have that carbon capture actually works and are you "taking into account the energy used to capture and isolate CO2 from a fossil fuel-burning industrial plant"?

I look forward to your reply

Kind regards

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

[REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

Casework Manager to Christine Grahame MSP

Constituency Member for Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale

M4.02 The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

T [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

M. [REDACTED UNDER REG 11]

We are very busy at the moment so please do not hesitate to get back in touch if you have not had a reply within the time you would expect, thank you

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[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]

- SSE described the announcement as a “major step forward in its deployment” of CCS, but also warned that “Time remains of the essence” and that “we must move quickly to deploy the transport and storage infrastructure” so that “it will allow crucial low carbon projects – such as our carbon capture project at Peterhead - to be brought forward”.

[REDACTED UNDER REG 10(4)(e)]