

Minister for Energy, Just Transition and Fair Work
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8 April 2024

Dear Malachy Clarke ,

Thank you for your letter of March 2024 and I thank you for your congratulations and invitation to meet with you to discuss priorities for Scotland's Energy Future.

Unfortunately, due to diary pressures, I am unable to meet with you at this time. However, upon publication of the Scottish Government's Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (ESJTP), due for publication by summer, I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss it, along with the issues you have set out in your letter. As you have stated in your letter, and as is the case with any live planning application, I am unable to comment on the Peterhead Power Station planning application.

I can assure you that the Scottish Government is resolutely committed to a just transition to net zero emissions by 2045, demonstrating leadership in global efforts to limit the impact of climate change.

The Scottish Government supports the development of Carbon Capture Utilisation Storage (CCUS); CCUS is vital as part of a just transition to net zero emissions by 2045. Advice from the independent UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) describes CCUS as a "necessity, not an option" to achieve net-zero emissions. The CCC also advised in their May 2019 Net Zero report that Scotland could achieve net zero by 2045, in part due to "the excellent opportunities to remove CO2 from the atmosphere through... carbon capture and storage in Scotland."

As set out in the Bute House Agreement, the Scottish Government agrees that any strategy for deployment of CCUS must enable decarbonisation at pace and cannot be used to justify unsustainable levels of fossil fuel extraction or impede Scotland's just transition to net zero. The development of strategically located CCUS infrastructure in Scotland's industrial clusters in Grangemouth and the North East could protect and ensure the just transition for important domestic industries into a low-carbon Scotland. Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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future, protecting jobs and utilising existing skills.

Thank you again for your correspondence and I look forward to meeting with you after publication of the ESJTP.

Yours sincerely



GILLIAN MARTIN

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