



## Science and Technology Committee

**Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP**  
**Secretary of State for Business, Energy and**  
**Industrial Strategy (by e-mail)**

9 June 2022

Dear Kwasi,

On 25 May the Science and Technology Committee held a one-off evidence session on fusion.

At that session, Professor Ian Chapman, Chief Executive Officer, UK Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA), [explained](#) to us that the UKAEA had submitted to you and the Minister for Science, Research and Innovation its advice and recommendations with regards to the site for the Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production (STEP). Professor Chapman explained that although a decision could be made more quickly, he only expected an “announcement this year” once the business case had been approved and the acquisition of the land had been secured.

Given the importance of this decision, we would urge you to make a decision and an announcement as early as possible, with only a short gap between the two stages. In response to this letter, we would be grateful if you could set out:

1. When you and Minister Freeman expect to make a decision on which STEP site to proceed with; and
2. When you will make an announcement on this decision.

We would be grateful for your response to these questions by Monday 20 June 2022. As is usual with the Committee’s correspondence, I will place this letter and your response in the public domain.

With best wishes,

**Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**  
Chair