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Business, Energy  
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16 June 2022

Dear Greg,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 June regarding the process to select and acquire a site for STEP (Spherical Tokamak for Energy Production), the UK's prototype fusion power plant.

I agree that the selection of the site for STEP – the location for a globally unique and first-of-a-kind energy facility – is a significant decision and must be taken carefully. In particular, use of public funds to acquire land for STEP would warrant close consideration of all the commercial and financial implications involved for the Government. This will complement UKAEA's technical and socio-economic analysis of the shortlisted sites for STEP.

My officials are now working with UKAEA to complete the necessary business case. This case will provide both myself and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury with assurance that the recommended option for the STEP site presents value for money for the taxpayer.

Minister Freeman and I plan to review the case in July, after which I will make my final decision. I intend to announce the selected site as soon as possible in the Autumn – at which point I will write again to the Committee on STEP.

The selection of a site to host STEP is a remarkable milestone for the programme and culmination of a considerable amount of work. I remain excited to see the programme progress and confident that regardless of where STEP is located, the benefits of the programme will be experienced nationwide.

Yours sincerely,

**RT HON KWASI KWARTENG MP**  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy