



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
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Darren Jones MP
Chair of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

9 December 2022

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Darren

I am keen to update you on the five Energy National Policy Statements that we consulted on this time last year, and on which your Committee kindly sent us your Report on 25th February this year, following your oral evidence sessions in December and January.

I am acutely aware that you have been waiting longer than any of us would want for a response from the Government to your recommendations. This delay has been mostly as a result of the unprecedented situation that arose when Russia illegally invaded Ukraine and imperilled all of Europe's energy supplies earlier this year. An important part of the UK Government's response, the British Energy Security Strategy published in April, included a number of important commitments on strengthening our energy planning regime, including bolstering the National Policy Statements (NPSs). This delayed the revision process and our response to you as it required further changes across the suite of documents. It is important that I emphasise that these further changes, made as a result of the geopolitical situation and other policy developments since that time, are in my view fully in line with your Committee's recommendations, and especially *"that revised (draft) EN-1 be further amended to make the Government's commitment to net zero more explicit and to provide a clear and unambiguous direction to the Secretary of State to prioritise the importance of climate change in decision-making" and "that before the final version of the revised NPS for Energy is laid before Parliament it is further updated to bring it in line with current policy..."*.

On the first of these, I should emphasise that the NPSs are now clearer on both the Government's commitment to Net Zero and to maintaining energy security for the UK. These two objectives are mutually supporting and I think it is common ground for all of us that we must proceed urgently with development of new low carbon energy infrastructure in the UK, and that the NPSs are an important tool in enabling this.

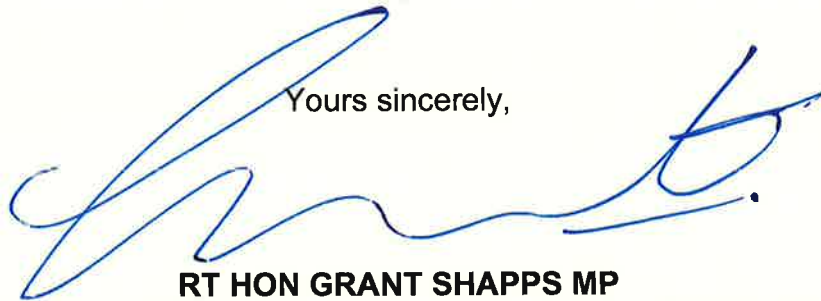
Further work took place over the summer on the revised documents, and they were then revisited in September as a result of the Growth Plan. Last month in his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made the following commitment:

"The government will seek to accelerate delivery of projects across its infrastructure portfolio, rather than focus on the list of projects that were flagged

for acceleration in the Growth Plan. The government will continue to ensure that all infrastructure is delivered quickly through reforms to the planning system, including through updating National Policy Statements for transport, energy and water resources during 2023, and through sector-specific interventions."

I am writing now to confirm that I have ensured this work has proceeded at pace and we will be ready to publish the revised and strengthened Energy National Policy Statements for further consultation in January 2023, and re-present them to Parliament following our analysis of the responses, so that they can be brought into force in the spring or early summer next year. I will of course ensure that I write more fully to you ahead of publication with our responses to your Report and recommendations, which will include a summary of the further changes that we have made.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Grant Shapps', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RT HON GRANT SHAPPS MP

Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy