



Science and Technology Committee

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and
Industrial Strategy (by e-mail only)

24 Jan 2023

Dear Grant,

On 12 January the Science and Technology Committee visited the Culham Science Centre and Tokamak Energy as part of our delivering nuclear power inquiry. The Committee were fascinated to see the progress the UK Atomic Energy Authority and private companies were making towards generating low-carbon electricity using fusion.

During the visit, members of the fusion community expressed frustration that the UK's participation in Euratom remains uncertain. The Committee heard how the lack of decision from the Government regarding whether to persevere with inclusion in Euratom or to launch a UK alternative was stifling fusion research and innovation in the UK.

We realise the Government wishes to remain associated with European research and development programmes, such as Euratom, and that the lack of decision on association is due to the European Commission not reaching an agreement. Given this impasse, the UK fusion sector would benefit from the UK proceeding with an alternative programme as soon as possible rather than continuing to work within a climate of uncertainty.

Given the importance of this decision and the impact the indecision is having on the fusion sector, we would urge you to publish details of the alternative Euratom programme and commit to its implementation as soon as possible. In response to this letter, we would be grateful if you could set out:

1. When you will make an announcement on the decision whether to focus on launching an alternative Euratom programme; and
2. When you intend to publish the details of said alternative.

We would be grateful for your response by Friday 10 February 2023. 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

House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
Westminster
SW1A 0AA

scitechcom@parliament.uk
+44 (0)20 7219 2792
Social: @CommonsSTC
parliament.uk