



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Energy and Climate

**Department for Business, Energy &
Industrial Strategy**
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

Sir William Cash MP
Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Website: www.gov.uk

30 January 23

Dear Sir William,

I am writing to you to inform you of the Memorandum of Understanding ('MoU') on offshore renewable energy cooperation between the UK and the participants of the North Seas Energy Cooperation ('NSEC') that I signed on 18 December 2022. This MoU has been agreed following Article 321 of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement which commits the UK and EU to cooperate in the development of offshore renewable energy and will provide the framework for regional cooperation with our North Seas neighbours.

It was a great privilege to sign the MoU alongside fellow Energy Ministers and representatives from Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Energy Commissioner Kadri Simson.

The North Sea is a core component of the UK's energy transition strategy. We have ambitious targets to increase offshore wind to 50GW and deliver 18GW of electricity interconnector capacity, all by 2030. In order to deliver these targets in an efficient and sustainable manner, we need to work together across the region to develop a future vision for offshore low carbon infrastructure. Whilst the UK will not be a full member of NSEC, as a third country, we will be invited to attend NSEC meetings to discuss specific topics or projects of "direct common interest" to the UK and NSEC participants.

I look forward to the UK resuming our participation in those discussions. The importance of collaborating on renewable technologies and reducing our reliance on fossil fuels has only become more acute following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Alongside this letter, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) is depositing the MoU in Parliament with an accompanying Explanatory memorandum for examination by the EU Scrutiny Select Committees in each House.

Yours ever,

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Energy and Climate