

Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown

Public Accounts Committee Chair
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

05 August 2026

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

Thank you for the invitation for The Crown Estate to give evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on 13 July 2026. We welcomed the Committee's scrutiny and the opportunity to demonstrate The Crown Estate's continued commitment to transparency and accountability to Parliament. During the session, I undertook to provide further information regarding The Crown Estate's Supply Chain Accelerator programme and activity in Yorkshire and the surrounding areas.

Yorkshire and the surrounding areas

The Crown Estate takes a place-based approach to its work, recognising that long-term value is created through understanding and responding to the distinct needs and opportunities of different places across the UK and working in partnership. We work with local communities, businesses, investors and public bodies, bringing together our investment, land stewardship, development, influence and convening capabilities to support economic growth and prosperity, the energy transition, nature recovery and thriving communities. This approach helps us deliver our statutory remit in a way that creates wider public value, delivers local benefits and responds to local needs and priorities.

Our rural business has a significant presence in Yorkshire and the surrounding areas, including four principal estates which are let to 28 tenant farming families. These estates contribute to a total of 18,450 acres of farmland across the county. The land supports a range of agricultural enterprises, with production focused predominantly on arable & livestock farming, alongside other food production. Across this portfolio, we continue to implement our progressive rural strategy, keeping food production at its core while balancing this with nature enhancement and appropriate on-farm diversification, including renewable energy, so that our land can continue to support local livelihoods, environmental outcomes and wider regional resilience.

The Crown Estate also has a significant marine presence in Yorkshire, supporting the UK's energy transition through the management of seabed and coastal assets. Alongside 3,100 acres of foreshore, the region is home to major offshore wind developments, including the 219MW Humber Gateway and 210MW Westernmost Rough wind farms, alongside the cable infrastructure needed to bring renewable electricity ashore and connect both existing and future offshore wind projects to the national grid. Our

marine assets also support strategically important energy infrastructure, including offshore pipelines serving the Easington energy hub. Alongside this, we work with partners to support environmental enhancement and nature recovery across the region, including through our conservation lease with the RSPB at Hook Island.

Together, our rural and marine activities in Yorkshire demonstrate how our business is supporting sustainable economic growth, the energy transition, nature recovery and thriving communities through a place-based approach tailored to local opportunities and priorities.

Supply Chain Accelerator

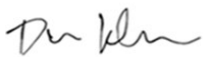
The Supply Chain Accelerator programme is designed to support the development of the UK offshore wind supply chain and help ensure that the economic benefits of offshore wind are realised across the country. To date, The Crown Estate has awarded £17 million through the programme across 27 projects. Of the funding awarded to date, £4.8 million of match funding for early stage development opportunities has been allocated to projects in the North East of England, including initiatives in Blyth, two projects in Middlesbrough and one in Hartlepool. Applications for the third funding round are currently being assessed and successful projects will be announced in December 2026.

Investment

I would also like to clarify one aspect of my oral evidence concerning The Crown Estate's ability to make direct investments in businesses. During the hearing, I explained our approach in general terms. For completeness, I should note that our governing Act provides commissioners with powers to invest where such investment is commensurate with the discharge of our statutory function. These powers are therefore limited and must be exercised in support of our statutory purpose and duties.

I am very grateful to you and your committee for your time and look forward to hearing from you in the Autumn when you have considered the hearing and associated evidence further.

Yours sincerely



Dan Labbad
Chief Executive
The Crown Estate