



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP  
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Dear Darren Jones MP,

I am writing to inform you that the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has now published the Downstream Oil Resilience Bill in draft. The Bill follows a public consultation in 2017, where Government explored options to address sector resilience and concluded that there is an increased the risk of market disruption in the downstream oil sector, given the lower capacity to react to sudden supply and demand shocks.

The Bill sets out measures and powers that will improve our ability to manage and reduce these risks of disruption to economic activity from the loss of fuel supplies and minimize any HMG exposure to costs during stressed times. This includes:

- **Information power:** requires industry to provide regular data and report incidents to ensure Government can identify potential and actual disruptions early and target contingency measures more effectively.
- **Control test power:** ensures companies gaining control of critical infrastructure are financially and operationally fit, reducing the risk that fuel supplies are jeopardised by high-risk ownership.
- **Power of direction:** enables Government to direct industry to take measures to improve their own resilience or ensure continuity of supply – this power would be used proportionately and as a last resort.
- **Spending power:** allows Government to provide financial assistance to support sector resilience and ensure continuity of supply, only if it is deemed necessary and value for money.

The publication also marks the first step towards the commitment made in the Energy White Paper to take powers to ensure we maintain a secure and resilient supply of fossil fuels during the transition to net zero emissions. Ensuring a reliable and secure fuel supply to essential services in coming years will be critical and therefore primary legislation is required to build adequate resilience across the whole supply system.

The draft Bill has been published with accompanying explanatory notes and an assessment of the potential impacts. I look forward to speaking to further about this Bill in due course.

Yours sincerely,

**THE RT HON ANNE-MARIE TREVELYAN MP**  
Minister for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change