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Commerce**

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The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
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10th August 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing at the beginning of your premiership with a simple message from Aberdeen and the North-east of Scotland. We want to work with your government to secure a prosperous future for this region and help deliver Britain's energy ambitions.

After a difficult two years, your arrival in Downing Street offers the chance for a much-needed reset in the relationship between Westminster and the North-east.

People here have watched jobs disappear, investment stall and confidence drain away from our energy sector. I was struck, therefore, by your words in a recent interview, where you spoke of your ambition to "bring back hope" and said that "decline is not inevitable".

Nowhere needs to hear that message more than Aberdeen and the North-east. That is why I am writing to invite you to Aberdeen to meet the energy companies, supply chain leaders and workers who are critical to this country's future.

Britain will continue to need oil and gas for decades to come. The Climate Change Committee's own pathways forecast demand of between 12 and 15 billion barrels of oil equivalent between now and 2050. The question is not whether we use those resources, but where they come from.

On the current trajectory, the North Sea will produce only around four billion barrels over that period. With the right policy environment and an early removal of the Energy Profits Levy, that could be closer to eight billion – displacing imports, supporting energy security and unlocking around £50billion of investment in the UK economy.

That matters for the climate too. North Sea production has a substantially lower emissions footprint than imported LNG, while Jackdaw gas is around eight times cleaner than its imported equivalent. Producing more of what we still need at home is not an alternative to climate action; it is part of it.

It makes no economic, environmental or strategic sense to prematurely abandon our own resources, hollow out the supply chain we will need to deliver the transition, and then pay other countries to produce and ship the same oil and gas to Britain.

But neither should Britain retreat from its net zero ambitions. There is a huge economic prize available if we get this transition right. ScotWind alone represents one of the greatest industrial opportunities Scotland has seen in generations, alongside carbon capture, hydrogen and other emerging technologies.



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The frustration in Aberdeen is that the Westminster debate has become trapped between two ideological positions – one demanding the premature end of domestic oil and gas production, the other questioning the transition itself. Neither reflects the pragmatic transition that people and businesses here know is both necessary and achievable.

The North-east already has the workforce, skills and supply chain to deliver both. We can produce more of the oil and gas Britain still needs at home while accelerating the industries that will ultimately replace it. Maintaining that industrial base will make the transition easier to achieve, not harder.

With your appointment, there is an opportunity for your government to change the conversation.

Come to Aberdeen. Meet the people whose livelihoods depend on the decisions made in Westminster. Sit down with operators investing billions of pounds, supply chain companies competing around the world, and workers who want nothing more than the opportunity to build their futures here. Hear directly from them about what needs to change – and what could be achieved if it does.

The North-east is not asking government to choose between energy security and climate action, or between oil and gas and renewables. We are asking you to back a transition that delivers all of them.

Your premiership can bring back hope to a region that has too often felt ignored by Westminster. And it can demonstrate that decline – of the North Sea, of our industrial base and of the communities built around it – is not inevitable.

I hope you will accept our invitation and come to Aberdeen to begin that reset.

Yours sincerely,



Ryan Crighton
Policy Director
Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce