



Mr Jacob Rees-Mogg MP
Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy
3rd October 2022 (by email).

Dear Secretary of State,

North Sea oil and gas exploration licences.

I am writing to urge you to reverse the UK Government's plans to issue up to 130 new oil and gas exploration licences in the North Sea, including for the Rosebank oil field. Such a move would be unconscionably reckless in the face of the climate emergency and will jeopardise the UK's ability to meet its climate targets. The consensus from the IPCC and International Energy Agency in recent months has been clear: there can be *no* new oil and gas developments if the world is to achieve net zero by 2050 and limit global temperature rise.

It is less than a year since the UK hosted the world's nations at COP26 in Glasgow and played a leading role in facilitating cooperation on actions to limit greenhouse gas emissions. To backtrack on the example the UK set internationally in order to pursue short-term profits for a few energy companies is a disservice to our partners across the globe and to the people of the UK.

For the pursuit of new North Sea fossil fuel extraction will do little to ease the pressure on UK households this winter, or indeed the next few winters, given that it can take anywhere between 10-15 years to operationalise a new site. All that can be guaranteed by this plan, is the continued failure of the UK Government to seize the advantages that the net zero transition offers to the UK, its workforce, and people.

I have been contacted by concerned individuals across Scotland about your government's plans. They stress that the proposed Rosebank oil field alone would emit greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the 28 lowest-income countries should it go ahead. Permitting this project to advance will contribute to climate-driven natural disasters, such as the recent floods in Pakistan and Japan while leaving the UK with an outdated fossil fuel-based energy system.

I urge you to honour the spirit of cooperation that the UK Government displayed at COP26 and withhold the issuing of new licenses for fossil fuel extraction.

Sincerely,

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