



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Climate

Department for Business, Energy &
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Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
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Website: www.gov.uk

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15 November 2022

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 7 November, addressed to the Secretary of State, on behalf of your constituents, regarding support for renewable energy. I am responding as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio.

We can all be proud of the UK's record since 2010 in delivering the renewable electricity generation necessary to meet our decarbonisation targets. In 2021, renewable electricity generation accounted for almost 40% of total electricity generation, up from just 7% in 2010. The UK has, under this Government, led the way in deploying and lowering the cost of off-shore wind with positive global as well as domestic consequences.

We are determined to go even further, even faster. The British Energy Security Strategy sets out how we will increase clean energy and accelerate deployment, which could see up to 95% of Great Britain's electricity being low carbon by 2030, including:

- Offshore wind: We have a new ambition of up to 50GW by 2030 – more than enough to power every home in the UK – of which we would like to see up to 5GW from floating offshore wind in deeper seas. This will be underpinned by new planning reforms to cut the approval times for new offshore wind farms from up to 4 years to 1 year and an overall streamlining which will radically reduce the time it takes for new projects to reach construction stages while improving the environment.
- Onshore wind: We will be consulting on developing partnerships with a limited number of supportive communities who wish to host new onshore wind infrastructure in return for guaranteed lower energy bills. In September 2022 it was announced that we will unlock the potential of onshore wind by bringing consenting in line with other infrastructure
- Solar: We will also look to increase the UK's current 14GW of solar capacity which could grow up to 70GW by 2035, consulting on the planning rules for both rooftop solar and ground-mount solar projects, amongst other policy interventions designed to enable deployment, as well as aggressively exploring other renewable opportunities afforded by our geography and geology, including tidal and geothermal.

The acceleration in renewable deployment will be supported by the UK's main mechanism for supporting large scale low-carbon generation, the Contracts for Difference scheme

(CfD). This UK developed financing tool has been transformative - it has lowered costs while incentivising investment and is currently generating millions of pounds of revenue to help reduce bills.

Our latest round supported several renewable technologies with a total annual budget of £285 million. It delivered almost 11GW of new renewable capacity, nearly double that of the previous round, including almost 7GW of offshore wind. For the first time since 2015, solar and onshore wind projects were able to apply for contracts. Along with offshore wind, these technologies will be key to achieving a fully decarbonised power system by 2035. Tidal and floating offshore wind projects also won contracts for the first time ever, which will help these industries grow and strengthen Britain's home-grown renewables sector.

In February, we announced that the next CfD round would be brought forward to March 2023 and that, thereafter, rounds would be run on an annual basis to drive deployment of even more renewable power.

To support the infrastructure needed for the major expansion of offshore wind and to ensure that the highest level of economic activity is encouraged to stay in the UK, we have announced around £1.6 billion of major port and manufacturing investment in the last year which will support up to 4,100 jobs by 2030. This has been facilitated through the £160m Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Support (OWMIS) scheme.

In addition, we see a major opportunity to develop our global leadership in floating wind turbines (as opposed to the ones anchored to the seabed) and have announced up to £160m in funding to develop new large-scale floating offshore wind ports and factories in the UK. This funding, boosted by private sector investment, will help develop port infrastructure capable of mass-producing floating offshore wind turbines and installing them out at sea, creating thousands of jobs in the UK's industrial heartlands, whilst reducing imports from overseas. This is alongside a further £31 million of UK Government funding, to be matched by industry funding, for research and development in floating wind.

As you can see our record to date is world leading but our ambitions for the future are even more exciting.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope you and your constituents find this response useful.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Stuart', written over a horizontal line.

Rt Hon Graham Stuart MP
Minister of State for Climate