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Sent: 10 February 2021 12:03

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Subject: Read out - Call with OGA - 10 February

[REDACTED – personal data] / [REDACTED – personal data] – to see the action from the Minster regarding the OGA SC TF, we will follow this up, happy to keep you copied.

[REDACTED – personal data] / [REDACTED – personal data] – we will follow up with Mairi and Callum keeping you copied to this, and will also revisit with the OGA the SLG ask from last year.

Read out below of the call between Mr Wheelhouse and the OGA.

Attendees

- Mr Wheelhouse, Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands
- Andy Samuel, OGA
- Tim Eggar, OGA
- [REDACTED – personal data], Energy Industries
- [REDACTED – personal data], Energy Industries

Key points

- OGA noted that it continues to be a challenging time for investors in the North Sea but they will now be taking a more proactive / robust role in driving forward investment through their engagement with operators, particularly as oil and gas process are over \$50 a barrel; citing examples such as the [REDACTED – confidentiality of commercial or industrial information]. As part of this they are working with an operator on a well P+A plan which, if sequenced, could lead to 100 wells being plugged and leading to use of 4-5 rigs, supporting the supply chain.
- OGA are increasing their activity on the opportunities of electrification and floating offshore wind – there is an opportunity here for Scotland / Ruk rather simply piping across to Norway, but recognised that it must be a tripartite approach to achieving this.
- PW noted the success of Scotwind and that there had been significant interest from a number of oil and gas operators.
- OGA noted that there have been some historical ways that both Governments have been doing this, and that if we want to reach Net Zero then there will need to identify what these hindrances are and rectify them quickly – example cited was in accelerating the grid process which is a capacity issue at Ofgem. As the OGA see these barriers they will raise with both Governments.
- Discussion on the sectors role at COP 26, the Minister noted that there is a lot of powerful messaging from the sector which should be evidenced and include the voices of young people and their role as part of energy transition, including sharing the good practice of the sector both at home but also raising its profile

internationally. The Minister suggested it would be useful for the OGA to have a follow up discussion with spads on COP.

- **Action:** Officials to follow up with Mairi McAllan and Callum McCaig to arrange a short discussion with the OGA.
- OGA noted their new Strategy will be adopted shortly, which will formalise their role in CCS and will be looking to adopt a more strategic approach to CCS offshore, and that they are beginning to support BEIS officials with some early work and thinking on Hydrogen.
- The Minister commented on the recent Trade Vision announcement and what this would mean for the sector, noting that it would be discussed at the SLG on the 18th February, and had a specific ask to the OGA Supply Chain Taskforce to:
 - **Action:** OGA SC TF to consider if there are specific elements of the Scottish supply chain that could be detrimentally affected by the inclusion of certain exemptions as part of the Trade Vision proposal – recognising that there will be a different footprint in Scotland to the UK average.
- The Minister highlighted the work of the intra-ministerial group, noting that this could be a good collaboration mechanism, and also to raise profile and strengthen the narrative of the sector and its role in energy transition.
- In closing, the Minister referenced the recent international travel restrictions, and requested feedback from the sector.

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Please note that I am now working from home and available via mobile [REDACTED – personal data]