



## Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

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Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP  
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero,  
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero,  
55 Whitehall,  
London,  
SW1A 2HP

(sent by email to [Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk](mailto:Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk))

12th July 2024

Dear Secretary of State,

On behalf of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS), congratulations on your re-election and subsequent appointment as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero.

SCCS is Scotland's climate coalition, the largest civil society coalition ever formed in Scotland, with over 70 diverse organisations campaigning together on climate change, including environment, faith and international development organisations, trade and student unions, and community groups. We were pleased to work with you in your previous roles and we hope to be able to continue this constructive engagement.

Your Government will be in power for the majority of the crucial second half of the 'decade of delivery' to 2030, so your approach to climate action both in relation to reserved powers and in cooperation with the Scottish Government is crucial.

The UK and Scotland have, in the past, been among the global leaders on climate. When the UK and Scottish Climate Change Acts were first passed, they were 'world-leading'. However, the previous UK Government's Net Zero Strategy, intended to set a path to meeting emissions' reduction targets, has been described as '[feeble and inadequate](#)' and their more recent announcements amounted to a roll-back on commitments and were [criticised by the Climate Change Committee](#). As [you have said](#): "There is not a minute to waste in the drive for 2030 clean power and in the drive for climate action. The world is off track, Britain is off track and we intend to change that direction." We, therefore, have high hopes that your new UK Government will ensure that legislative framework and policies are in place to deliver net zero and the associated benefits to the lives and livelihoods of people in the UK and around the world.

In advance of the election, [SCCS set out the key issues, in reserved matters](#), that we called on any new UK Government to act on. These were:

1. To adopt a **progressive position at the annual COP negotiations**, supporting agreements that:
  - maintain ambitious targets;
  - fairly phase out fossil fuels (including support for the [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#), a matter about which [we and others wrote to you](#) recently);
  - support the global south, particularly women as they are disproportionately affected by climate change; and
  - ensure a just transition that leaves no one behind.
2. To demonstrate leadership within the international community by **committing to pay our fair share to international climate finance, including loss and damage**. This commitment must be transparently in addition to, not part of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA); it should also be in the form of grants and not loans (the latter simply increases indebtedness).

3. To ensure that **reserved fiscal policies are configured to incentivise emissions reductions and fund a just transition**. Key examples of reserved fiscal measures that may be used to benefit climate outcomes include corporation tax, where reliefs should be tailored to encourage investment in low carbon infrastructure/businesses and discourage high emissions; and transport, where taxes on private cars/car use and subsidies to public/active travel should be designed to encourage a modal shift from high to low carbon forms of travel and integration of active and public transport. This is particularly important in relation to intercity rail travel and short-haul aviation, where the price incentives are currently perverse. Our briefing on the use of fiscal measures to tackle the climate crisis can be found [here](#).
4. As promised in your manifesto, to **exercise powers over oil and gas licensing to prevent any new exploration, and to instigate a managed and just wind-down of North Sea oil and gas production**. Additionally, new oil and gas projects should not be permitted to go ahead. Our briefing on “a managed wind down of North Sea oil & gas production in line with a Just Transition” is [here](#). The UK Government also has a number of reserved powers in relation to the market and to grid infrastructure which should be better used to encourage a just transition to renewable energy, and improved energy efficiency.

SCCS welcomed the [Labour Party's 'mission'](#) to “Make Britain a clean energy superpower to cut bills, create jobs and deliver security with cheaper, zero-carbon electricity by 2030, accelerating to net zero”. In particular, we note the proposal for the establishment of “GB Energy” and the plan for this to be headquartered in Scotland; we would welcome discussion with you and your team on the details of this proposal and its implementation, including how it can support [community energy developments](#).

We look forward to seeing fuller details of your net zero policies and how they will be delivered, especially as you prepare for COP29 in Azerbaijan. This must be done in a fair way that ensures a just transition, in particular for workers and communities reliant on industries that will be in decline, and recognises the vital importance of protecting and restoring nature, including woodlands, peatlands and wetlands.

Congratulations again on your appointment to this critical role. If you or your Ministers would like to discuss any of the above issues with our coalition members, we would be delighted to attend such a meeting – or, potentially, join such a meeting with UK partners. In addition, we will continue engaging with your colleagues in Scottish Labour, both in the Scottish Parliament, and the new and re-elected Scottish Labour MPs. I am copying this letter to Ian Murray, the new Secretary of State for Scotland, and Kirsty McNeill at the Scotland Office.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mike Robinson OBE  
Chair, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

cc Rt Hon Ian Murray MP, Secretary of State for Scotland  
Kirsty McNeill MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scotland Office