Scottish Conservative & Unionist

The Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security & Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP
United Kingdom

5th June 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you regarding the escalating crisis facing the North Sea sector, your doubling down on the banning of new oil and gas licences, and the profound impact the Energy Profits Levy – the windfall tax – is having on workers, supply chain companies, and the Aberdeen economy.

Over the last week, EnerMech and Xodus Group became the latest oil and gas companies to announce that jobs were at risk, adding to the thousands that have already been lost due to your hostility towards the sector.

In recent months, Harbour Energy, BP, Apache, Verlume, Well-Safe Solutions, Hunting, Altrad, Kaefer, Bilfinger, Wood Group, Chevron and Weatherford have all signalled their intention to downsize amid the growing uncertainty caused by your policies, which are pushing our great oil and gas industry into extinction.

Your decision in the King's Speech not to reverse the ban on licences for new oil and gas field exploration could be the final nail in the coffin for many businesses, and with it, Aberdeen's economy.

Banning licenses doesn't reduce demand, it only increases our reliance on imports, threatens jobs, and pushes up prices even further.

It's therefore ludicrous why you would lift your ban on UK imports of diesel and jet fuel made from Russian oil, yet ban extraction from our own waters?

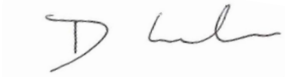
At a time when our energy security is in a state of national emergency from the conflict in the Middle East, I cannot fathom why you would want to prioritise foreign jobs and imports over UK jobs and production.

I believe it has been more than 18 months since you last visited Aberdeen, which is why I extend a formal invitation to you to come to the city to see the devastation that is being caused for yourself.

You will be able to speak directly with workers, companies, and community representatives to see the realities and struggles of life in Aberdeen at the moment.

The people of this great city deserve to be seen, heard, and understood.

Yours sincerely,



Douglas Lumsden

Promoted by J Tweedie, on behalf of D Lumsden, both of 2 West Mount Street, Aberdeen, AB25 2RJ