



21 May 2020

Rt Hon Alister Jack MP
Secretary of State for Scotland
Dover House
Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AU

Dear Secretary of State

I would be grateful if you could provide an update as to what action the Scotland Office is taking to bring work for the Scottish offshore renewables sector to Scotland.

GMB Scotland understands that SSE Renewables is currently intent that work for the Seagreen Offshore Windfarm will become the latest tranche of offshore windfarm work to go abroad, despite the huge support this industry has enjoyed from the UK taxpayer.

As you will recall, I was pleased to hear you say to the House of Commons in February, that you did not believe that shipping the turbine jackets for the Neart na Gaoithe project from Indonesia was sensible but when it comes to Seagreen it appears that the idea of manufacturing in Guangdong in China is to be dropped in favour of work being done in Europe, but not the UK.

We need, as you know, an urgent reform of the UK Government's Contracts for Difference arrangements to provide the right support for the UK supply chain, as many other countries do, and as we have done successfully in other parts of the energy industry here too. It is completely unacceptable for Scottish billpayers to subsidise the big players in this industry, like SSE, only for those same companies to continually make clear what little regard they have for creating work in Scotland whilst exploiting Scotland's natural resources for their own gain.

I will be raising again with the Scottish Government what it will do to support us in our campaign to bring work to the three empty BiFab yards in Burntisland, Methil and Stornoway. I hope that you will impress upon your UK Government colleagues how desperate the situation is in manufacturing for the Scottish renewables sector with all that it means for industrial recovery in Scotland.

Yours sincerely

GARY SMITH
GMB SCOTLAND SECRETARY

PAT RAFFERTY
UNITE SCOTTISH SECRETARY