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Our Reference: 202500468049

Your Reference: FAO: Neil Gray, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care

10 June 2025

Dear Elaine,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 23 May regarding your concerns of climate change on public health and health services. Thank you also for sharing the recent policy report on "A Just Transition for the Good of Health", which has been shared with officials. I am responding as Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy.

With regards to your concerns on the consenting of Rosebank and Jackdaw, decisions on the consenting of offshore oil and gas projects are currently reserved to the UK Government. The Scottish Government has been consistently clear that any further extraction and use of fossil fuels must be consistent with our climate obligations and just transition commitments. That is why we have called on the UK Government to approach decisions on North Sea oil and gas on a rigorously evidence-led, case by case, basis – with robust climate compatibility and energy security being key considerations.

The Scottish Government remains committed to our climate change ambitions and achieving net zero by 2045. Our forthcoming Climate Change Plan will set out our approach to delivering Scotland's net zero targets and further outline policies and proposals which will set out in detail how we intend to deliver action to tackling climate change. The plan will be supported by new sectoral Just Transition Plans and reflect on our ongoing commitment to a fair transition for all. We will also work with the UK Government, who hold key policy levers, to deliver a net zero future. These must be acted upon, and at pace, if we are to deliver not only Scotland's climate targets, but the UK's as well.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot



Planetary and human health are inextricably linked. The Scottish Government recognises the importance of the environment to health and wellbeing, and the UN describes the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution as placing unsustainable pressure on ecosystems and human health. Further to this, the annual Chief Medical Officer report has regularly highlighted the effects of the climate emergency on human health and wellbeing, and the opportunities for health and wellbeing that can be achieved through addressing them – [the most recent report was published 09 June](#). Failing to tackle these challenges would have far reaching consequences for our health, our wellbeing, and our health and care systems. Yet, in climate action lies a great opportunity to improve the health of our population.

Examples of strategies that you might find of interest are the [Public Health Scotland](#), the [NHS Scotland Climate Emergency & Sustainability Strategy](#) and the [Health Impact Assessment](#) that was completed on the third Scottish National Adaptation Plan.

I hope this reassures you that the Scottish Government remains firmly committed to a just energy transition that is both in line with climate change goals and with public health and services in mind.

Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN MARTIN

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