



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

1st September 2026

Re: New Oil and Gas Licenses

Dear Miatta,

I am writing on behalf of many of my constituents who have shared their concerns about the potential for the Government to provide new oil and gas exploration licenses for Rosebank and Jackdaw.

The Government's track record on North Sea oil and gas has been clear. Our manifesto committed to no new oil and gas exploration licences, and the North Sea Future Plan followed through on that promise, setting out a globally standard-setting, 1.5°C and climate science-aligned approach to future oil and gas production.

I would urge that this same standard be applied to the Rosebank and Jackdaw decisions.

Rosebank has projected emissions totalling 254 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent, or around 70% of the UK's entire annual territorial emissions in 2024, which are difficult to reconcile with our climate commitments, particularly as we witness heatwaves, wildfires, and droughts across the UK. Using government figures for the social cost of carbon, campaigners have estimated that Rosebank alone could cause over £114 billion in global climate damage, several times its own claimed economic value.

Furthermore, my constituents are concerned that any decision to approve licenses for drilling in Rosebank or Jackdaw do not provide a compelling security or affordability case. As the head of the International Energy Agency has noted, projects like Rosebank would not meaningfully change the UK's energy security or affect the price of oil and gas, both of which are set on international markets. As prices for oil and gas are set internationally, supply shocks elsewhere can quickly translate into

higher bills for consumers in the UK, as demonstrated by recent geopolitical instability. 90% of Rosebank's oil will be exported, and the UK is still projected to be 94% reliant on gas imports by 2050 even if new fields proceed. Jackdaw, meanwhile, would reduce our annual gas import dependency by only around 2%, and its own developers acknowledge it would create just 27 direct full-time jobs.

Any decision to approve licenses at Rosebank or Jackdaw would also raise questions of fairness. Campaigners have estimated that UK taxpayers will shoulder over 80% of Rosebank's development costs through tax reliefs, while operators have posted substantial profits – Shell's Q2 profits alone reached £7.4 billion. My constituents, several of whom have written to me directly on this, have stated that they do not see how expanding oil and gas production would lower their bills or improve their security, but rather that it would benefit the companies extracting it, while leaving the UK exposed to the next global fossil fuel price shock.

The transition away from fossil fuel production is already under way. This Government has lifted the onshore wind ban in England, approved record levels of renewable energy capacity and launched Great British Energy – the first publicly owned energy company in 70 years. It has also run Europe's biggest offshore wind auction and the UK's largest solar procurement, enough to power 16 million homes.

Only decisive action such as this will protect future generations while improving everyday life through cleaner air, lower bills, secure jobs, and better health. I believe the Government's focus should remain on delivering a fair transition, clean power, and good jobs, rather than approving projects that would undercut our climate commitments and our credibility on climate leadership, while providing little benefit to taxpayers.

The decisions at Rosebank and Jackdaw will be an important test of the Government's commitment to its manifesto pledge and its wider approach to the UK's energy future. I urge you to consider the significant climate, economic and energy-security concerns raised by these projects and reject any new licenses for them, and continue to focus on delivering secure, affordable, clean energy for households across the UK.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bambos". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Bambos Charalambous MP