



Mr Derek Mackay MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Economy and Fair Work
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
EDINBURGH EH1 3DG

2 December, 2019

Dear Derek

BiFab, Arnish

As you know EDF/Saipem made announcements last week concerning potential contracts for the £2 billion Neart Na Gaoithe (NnG) offshore wind farm which you welcomed as good news for BiFab in Fife, the Port of Dundee and Eyemouth Harbour.

You will have seen the response from both our unions and our disappointment, yet again, about the tiny share of overall work being proposed to come to Scotland, despite the Scottish Government's fulsome support for this industry and the multinational companies that dominate it. Whilst we understand that no detail has been agreed. It is understood that, so far as BiFab is concerned, we are likely talking about less than a seventh of the jacket work for NnG being done in Scotland, with the rest presumably to be shipped to and assembled at Dundee from Indonesia as we have long warned.

There has been industry speculation about what even this work will mean for Arnish in Lewis. As you know, we have been clear for the beginning that we are determined to see employment in both Fife and Lewis. Despite the fact that you have already welcomed EDF's approach to the supply chain for this project we hope that you will be strongly making the point that we expect to see a bigger share for Scottish yards, and that this means work for Arnish as well as Methill and Burntisland.

Dozens of workers at Arnish have been made redundant since October, with little political reaction or action. More jobs are due to be lost this week. It looks increasingly clear to us that the model for green industrial jobs in Scotland, where they exist, is to be one of casualised labour. This does nothing to reassure us about the Scottish Government's commitments to a so called "just transition" for energy jobs and more importantly it is completely unsustainable in a vulnerable island economy.

We hope that you will redouble your efforts to bring a greater share of renewables jobs to Scotland, including to Arnish, and that you will consider whether the casualised employment model that is emerging is the best that can be achieved in this sector.

It is disappointing that these concerns were not part of the consideration in your response to EDF's announcements last week but we hope that you will want to engage with us again about what opportunities we can pursue together in 2020 to achieve a decent share of our own work and deliver decent work for communities in every part of Scotland.

Yours sincerely



Gary Smith
GMB Scotland Secretary



Pat Rafferty
Scottish Secretary, Unite the Union