

LG/AJ



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

18 December 2019

Dear Secretary of State

Burntisland Fabrications LTD

It's now more than ten years since former First Minister, Alex Salmond, claimed that Scotland was on the verge of becoming the Saudi Arabia of renewables.

The reality is a complete failure to secure a decent share of industrial supply chain-work for Scottish businesses from the booming, and hugely subsidised, renewable energy sector.

As offshore wind projects spring up around the coasts of Scotland we are seeing developer after developer continue to pocket the support of taxpayers through the contracts for difference arrangements whilst placing their lucrative fabrication and engineering contracts abroad. The legacy of the rush for offshore wind, so far, is empty fabrication yards in Fife and in Lewis whilst wind turbines are being shipped to our shores from Europe, the far east and the middle east.

Last month EDF indicated that just 8 out of 54 of the turbine jackets for the Neart na Gaoithe offshore wind farm, which will operate 10 miles off the coast of Fife, are likely to be constructed in Scotland with the balance brought by barge from Indonesia. As a result, the remaining workforce at the Arnish fabrication yard in Lewis will be made redundant this Friday, just a few days short of Christmas. The yards at Methil and Burntisland will likely make their redundancies in February, before re-engaging some of the workforce probably in April.

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GMB Scotland understand that the next big project, Sea-green, being developed by SSE will procure their turbine jackets from China. This is nothing short of a scandal.

Scotland failed to build a domestic supply chain for onshore wind and is now repeating that failure for offshore wind, despite decades of experience and expertise in offshore energy infrastructure.

If there is to be any hope of reaching your stated ambition of 60% supply chain content by 2030 then we must see a change in approach from both UK and Scottish governments. So, what action will the UK Government take to reform contracts for difference and to ensure that Scotland enjoys more than the crumbs from our own table when it comes to the offshore wind sector?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louise Gilmour".

**LOUISE GILMOUR**  
**GMB SCOTLAND SENIOR ORGANISER**