

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

The Rt Hon Humza Yousaf MSP
First Minister of Scotland
St Andrew's House
Edinburgh
EH6 3DG

August 8, 2023

Dear Prime Minister and First Minister

The Electricity Network Commissioner, Nick Winser, has recommended in his independent report that government should design and implement a focused information campaign on why we must transform our electricity transmission system.

As a priority which is shared across the UK, I am writing to you both to urge that this is implemented as a matter of urgency, along with all Nick Winser's recommendations, in a joint mission by The UK and Scottish Governments.

Our electricity grid, which powers homes and businesses in every corner of our islands, is a remarkable engineering success story. Its modernisation in the 1950s paved the way for a new era of energy production and demand, but today we stand on the cusp of a new renewable energy era of increasing electrification with which that ageing grid cannot cope.

In 1950, 56TWh of electricity was consumed in Britain. Today that figure is 300TWh, and is set to increase by 50% in the next decade. We must rise to the challenge and mirror the scale of vision and subsequent development achieved more than 70 years ago.

This is a challenge at which we cannot afford to fail. Increasing the production of clean power from renewables like wind and solar is the best way to cut energy bills for everyone in society, as well as insulating ourselves from fluctuations in the price of dirty, imported gas.

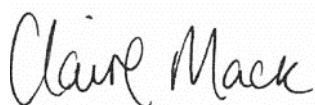
Offshore wind development alone offers the greatest economic opportunity Scotland has seen in 50 years, as well as a future for those working in the oil and gas sector. Without grid, that opportunity will be lost. Put simply, there will be no transition without transmission.

The renewable energy industry wants to be honest with the people of Scotland and the UK: a net-zero carbon future which delivers cheap, clean power, creates high-value green jobs and delivers transformative investment to local communities will look different.

Government has a duty to tell people affected by the development of a new electricity grid why that change is necessary – as well as reforming planning policy to ensure their views are heard in a proportional way.

Nick Winser has recommended that government should work together with the Future Systems Operator and trade organisations to deliver this information campaign. Scottish Renewables stands ready to play our part in this once-in-a-generation opportunity. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Claire Mack
Chief Executive