



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

3rd September 2021

Jean Contrevent

RE: OIL DRILLING & CAMBO OIL FIELD

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of oil extraction, such as drilling, and specifically about the Cambo oil field; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

Ministers share your concern about the use of fossil fuels and tackling climate change is a priority for the Government. I welcome the publication of the Prime Minister's 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution'. This lays the blueprint for how we can achieve net-zero and the further publication of the *Energy White Paper* made clear the Government's commitment to clean energy sources.

As we transition to clean energy, there will still be some role for fossil fuels in the medium-term. However, this is not sustainable in the long-term and I am pleased that steps have been taken to speed up the transition. In the *Energy White Paper*, it set out the Government's future plans for the oil and gas sector. This includes transforming the UK Continental Shelf to be a net-zero basin by 2050. In addition, the 'North Sea Transition Deal' creates new business opportunities, jobs and skills, as the oil and gas sector works to transition to clean, green, energy. I am pleased that the Government will provide opportunities for oil and gas companies to repurpose their operations away from unabated fossil fuels to abatement technologies such as carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS), or clean energy production such as hydrogen.

The deal goes further and includes interim targets, such as a 10 percent reduction in emissions by 2025, 25 percent by 2027, and 50 percent by 2030. It also supports up to 40,000 UK supply chain jobs in decarbonising UK Continental Shelf production and the CCUS and hydrogen sectors.

Ultimately, the Government is clear that the licensing of domestic oil and gas exploration and production must continue to be compatible with our climate change ambitions. While the Government has supported the sector through the pandemic, which has protected jobs and livelihoods, there can be no 'return to normal' owing to the context of the UK's net-zero recovery. I am encouraged that oil and gas companies are already responding positively to this challenge. For example, Shell is investing in CCUS technology.


I appreciate you raising your concerns about the Cambo oil field and I shall ensure my ministerial colleagues are aware of your concerns. I understand that the original licensing consent for the Cambo oil field dates back to 2001 and the project is going through normal regulatory processes. The decision on whether to grant consent to the Cambo oil field will be



taken by the Oil & Gas Authority, who are ultimately responsible, rather than the Secretary of State.

While I am pleased that the Government is working hard to drive down demand for fossil fuels, I do also appreciate that there will continue to be ongoing demand for oil and gas over the coming years, as recognised by the independent Climate Change Committee.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you, then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tom', with a stylized flourish below it.

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**