

RF/DM/PW

26th August 2020

Paul Wheelhouse MSP
Minister for Energy, Connectivity and
the Islands
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh EH1 3DG
By Email: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Dear Minister

Renewables and Green Manufacturing Jobs Crisis

I am writing today to urge an immediate joint summit organised by the Scottish and UK Governments to bring forward immediate proposals to protect and create decent jobs in renewables construction and green manufacturing in Scotland.

The STUC is committed to building a low-carbon economy and action on climate change. However, promises of a green recovery and a future jobs guarantee are worthless unless there is an industrial plan and investment strategy brought forward to deliver it; to transform our renewables supply chains, boost our competitiveness and sustain the prosperity of the workers and communities that depend upon them.

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The BiFab yards are effectively idle and we are continuing to hear pessimistic noises from developers and contractors both with respect to work from the consented NNG and Seagreen projects, as well as significant doubts as to whether there is any meaningful additional conditionality to create local supply chain jobs in the recent ScotWind offshore wind leasing round launched in June.

A shadow continues to hang over CS Wind in Campbelltown following mass redundancies last year and the apparent unwillingness of the company to play an active role in securing future work for the site in Scotland.

At the same time, Alexander Dennis, the UK's leading bus manufacturer has announced the culling of up to 200 Scottish jobs even as complete consensus has emerged on the future need for low and zero carbon buses.

All this is taking place within communities which desperately need renewal and at a time when both Governments have loudly been trumpeting their support for a green recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Equally, these developments fly in the face of the proposals of the Just Transition Commission's interim and green recovery reports.

We recognise that each of the companies concerned has taken varying approaches to the task of protecting and creating jobs and that the Scottish and UK Governments have different powers to deploy.

What is consistent across the three is that, despite incredible support from their unions, the workers are at risk of being thrown on the scrapheap while Government and company press releases are issued offering a bright green future.

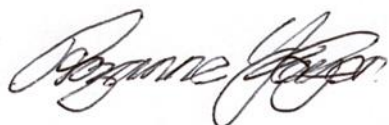
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I am urging you today, to call an immediate joint Ministerial Summit with the Unite and GMB unions as major players, to bring forward immediate proposals to intervene to protect and create jobs in these key renewable construction and manufacturing workplaces.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roz Foyer', written in a cursive style.

Roz Foyer
General Secretary

c.c. Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland
Douglas Ross MP, Leader, Scottish Conservative Party
Richard Leonard MSP, Leader, Scottish Labour Party
Patrick Harvie MSP, Co-Leader, Scottish Green Party
Willie Rennie MSP, Leader, Scottish Liberal Democrats
Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, Secretary of State for Business,
Energy and Industrial Strategy