

The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
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Dear Secretary of State,

We are pleased to see the Government considering how to align the future of domestic oil and gas production with the UK's broader climate change ambitions, through the design of the Climate Compatibility Checkpoint. In this COP presidency year, it is vital to ensure the UK continues to show leadership as it encourages other nations to deliver on promises made in Glasgow.

In October, [we wrote](#) to the Prime Minister as concerned climate scientists and academics to clarify the scientific consensus on the need to align oil and gas supply with 1.5C. In that letter, we outlined the need for the UK to halt investment in new oil and gas fields. This was based on research by the [International Energy Agency](#), the [UN Environment Programme](#) and a growing body of scientific research. The climate compatibility checkpoint is an opportunity to recognise this scientific consensus and put the UK on a path to halting investment in new oil and gas fields. However, as it stands there is a danger that it rubber stamps continued investment in fossil fuel infrastructure as green.

News of Shell withdrawing their investment in Cambo, citing a [weak economic case](#), also highlights the need for stronger governance of the basin to avoid exposure to stranded assets as the world transitions away from oil and gas. This could be achieved by the checkpoint if it is implemented stringently. Research has shown that over 55% of the world's oil and gas reserves will be [unextractable in a 1.5C world](#). Further, due to relatively high production costs, as this transition takes place the UK could be exposed to [\\$120bn in stranded oil and gas assets](#). There is an urgent need for all new projects to be reviewed, to ensure the basin is more resilient to transition risk. There are [30 offshore oil and gas projects](#) seeking development consent before 2025.

We are therefore calling on you to:

- **Ensure any checkpoint applies to all future developments, as well as future licensing rounds.**
- **Recognise the findings of leading research organisations, including the International Energy Agency, on the need to halt investment in new oil and gas supply to align with 1.5C targets.**

We welcome your comments that “exposure to volatile global gas prices underscores the importance of a plan to build a strong, home-grown renewable energy sector to further reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.” For the climate, and consumers, it is vitally important to shift away from a reliance on oil and gas.

Yours sincerely,

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