

Dr Andy Samuel
Chief Executive
Oil & Gas Authority
AB1 Building
48 Huntly Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1SH

18 May 2021

Dear Dr Samuel,

I am writing to urge you to act on the publication today (18 May 2021) of a landmark new report by the International Energy Agency on 'Net Zero by 2050 - A Roadmap for the Global Energy Sector'.

The report sets out the details of a scenario for achieving net zero emissions of greenhouse gases from the global energy sector by 2050. Among the important conclusions about its Net-Zero Emissions by 2050 Scenario (NZE) are:

- "The trajectory of oil demand in the NZE means that no exploration for new resources is required and, other than fields already approved for development, no new oil fields are necessary."
- "No new natural gas fields are needed in the NZE beyond those already under development."

As you know, the UK is required by the Climate Change Act to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, and the Oil & Gas Authority (OGA) now explicitly commits in its Purpose to "supporting the move to net zero carbon by 2050".

I know that the OGA will need time to consider the new report by the International Energy Agency, but I hope you will move swiftly to act on its findings and align your activities with its NZE. In particular, one inescapable implication of the new report is that the OGA should abandon its plans to "revitalise exploration" as one of its priorities for 2019-24. This should be accompanied by an immediate end to any new licences for oil and gas exploration.

The UK is due to host the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Glasgow in November 2021. In a major speech on 14 May, the COP26 President, the Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, stated that "we are asking all countries to set targets to get us to net zero by the middle of the century".

Given the importance that the Government is attaching to its leadership on climate change ahead of summit, I am sure that you will have the support of both the COP26 President and

LSE
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE

+44 (0)20 7107 5027
+44 (0)20 7107 5440

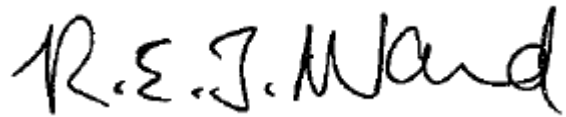
gri@lse.ac.uk

**[lse.ac.uk/
granthaminstitute](http://lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute)**

Chair:
**Professor Lord Stern
of Brentford**

the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, to whom I am copying this letter, for swift and decisive action on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R.E.J. Ward". The letters are cursive and connected, with a prominent "W" at the end.

Bob Ward
Policy and Communications Director

Tel: 07811-320346
Email: r.e.ward@lse.ac.uk

cc Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, COP26 President
Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy