

The Rt Hon Andy Burnham MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

cc: The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

14th August 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

Rosebank and Jackdaw: an open letter from Scotland

We are writing as Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, the coalition of over 70 civil society organisations with over a million supporters working on climate change in Scotland, together with the support of the other organisations concerned about climate change listed below. We are urging you to stick to the spirit of Labour's manifesto commitment and remain opposed to the Rosebank and Jackdaw oil and gas fields.

Approving Rosebank and Jackdaw does not lower energy bills for UK households, nor does it future-proof employment in the energy sector. More UK production will not insulate households from international oil and gas prices. Prices are set on global markets and remain vulnerable to geopolitical shocks. Exposing households to the same price volatility cannot credibly be presented by any government as greater energy security. New fields like Rosebank and Jackdaw will not stem the decline of jobs in the North Sea. Over the past decade, the number of jobs supported by the North Sea oil and gas industry has more than halved, despite new fields being approved. By contrast, investing in clean, home-grown renewable energy can strengthen energy security while creating secure, long-term jobs that benefit individuals and communities and are not dependent on the volatility of global fossil fuel markets. Currently, the Net Zero sector is worth over £10 Bn to the Scottish Economy, and employment in excess of 100,000 FTE jobs.

New fields currently awaiting decisions, including Rosebank and Jackdaw, are not compatible with climate goals. Rosebank alone is projected to produce around 254 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. For comparison, the UK's emissions over the whole of 2024 were estimated to be 373 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent. The consequences of climate change are already being felt, through more extreme heat, drought, wildfires and growing risks to food insecurity. Here in Scotland, the scale of that threat has been brought starkly home this summer by the devastating wildfire in the Cairngorms National Park which required a major and sustained emergency response. Analysts have linked the heatwaves of May and June this year alone to more than 2,700 excess deaths across England and Wales. Oxfam estimates that Rosebank and Jackdaw's combined lifetime carbon emissions could cause up to 65,495 excess heat deaths by 2100, a toll equivalent to the entire population of Inverness.

Approving the fields will also have consequences for the UK's international climate leadership. The UK as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution has emitted more than 4 per cent of all CO₂ released globally since 1751, a larger share than all but a handful of nations. That history brings a particular responsibility, and the UK has made progress in reducing emissions but this

credibility will be undermined by approving fossil fuels. It becomes much harder for the UK to ask others to move away from fossil fuels if it continues approving major new fields at home.

The only durable way to protect households from volatile fossil fuel prices is to reduce our dependence on oil and gas. That means insulating homes, expanding affordable public and electrified transport, and accelerating renewable energy investment which will also create far more jobs and opportunities for regional reindustrialisation. Approving new fields would pull us in the opposite direction from those investments and from the UK's legally binding carbon budgets.

We therefore urge you to refuse consent for Rosebank and Jackdaw and instead make this a decisive moment to accelerate investment in home energy efficiency, renewables and clean energy manufacturing, creating secure, well-paid jobs and delivering a genuinely fair transition for workers and communities in North East of Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland
Friends of the Earth Scotland
Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll) Scotland
Edinburgh Communities Climate Action Network
Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF)
Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland
Humanist Society Scotland
Porty Community Energy
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)
Parents For Future Scotland
Fossil Free Law
Fuel Poverty Action
Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN)
Ethnic Minority Environmental Network
Christian Aid Scotland
Changeworks Resources for Life
Quakers in Britain
Fife Climate Hub
East Lothian Climate Action Network
Oxfam Scotland
Global Justice Now
Eco-Congregation Scotland
Action to Protect Rural Scotland
One Parent Families Scotland
Medact Scotland
Water Witness International
People's Health Movement Scotland
Green New Deal Rising
Hope for the Future
Renfrewshire Climate Action Network
NESCO Hub

Aberdeen Climate Action
WWF Scotland
Midlothian Climate Action Network
Angus Climate Hub
Glasgow Eco Trust
Platform
PLANT (People Learning About Nature in Tayport)
Fife Communities Climate Action Network
Living Rent
Community Energy Scotland
Climate Action Strathaven
Culture, Health & Wellbeing Alliance
Greener Kirkcaldy
Uplift
Stop Rosebank Campaign
The Poverty Alliance
Scottish Environment LINK
Highlands & Islands Climate Hub