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Dear Amanda Bryan,

I am writing with regard to the position reached by the CES Board following its rapid review of the ScotWind option structure undertaken over the last few weeks. You have concluded that the cap on lease option prices should be raised by a factor of ten.

You will also be introducing a rigorous clawback mechanism to forestall the potential development of a secondary market in seabed options. This is clearly necessary, given the importance of ensuring that a robust process is put in place to address such practices.

Finally, you will be adjusting the Supply Chain Development Statement mechanism to encourage supply chain development which can deliver greater socio-economic benefits to Scotland.

The efforts of the board and CES staff in undertaking this review and arriving at a clear outcome expeditiously are much appreciated.

We are all committed to supporting the growth of a successful offshore wind sector in Scotland. ScotWind is vital to realising our ambitions for achieving up to 11GW of offshore wind capacity by 2030 and thereafter reaching net zero by 2045. In order to minimise the pause in ScotWind you committed to delivering this review by 24 March and I am very grateful to you for adhering to this commitment, enabling the process to be re-activated without undue delay and providing early clarity to ScotWind applicants.

I note that in reaching its position the board has carefully considered achieving best value from both the option fee and all aspects of revenue and capital value over the lifetime of potential projects, including lease payments and an increase in the capital value of the Estate, which will only accrue if offshore projects are successful in being built out.

You have stressed the importance of maximising the potential for ScotWind to deliver successful projects which contribute to the Government's ambitious Net Zero targets, in which

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offshore renewable energy has a significant role to play, and to increase offshore renewable energy's socio-economic contribution to Scotland via supply chain development, meeting your wider statutory duty in relation to furthering sustainable development.

In order to fully realise this potential it will be vital for the ScotWind process to conclude by awarding lease options within a timeframe that provides award holders with the best possible opportunity to put their projects forward for the next available Contracts for Difference bidding round. I would therefore ask you to ensure that all steps possible are taken to conclude the ScotWind timeously so as to maximise this opportunity.

ScotWind will play a key role in Scotland's clean, green economic recovery and in achieving Net Zero aspirations. Our shared goal is that ScotWind provides the best possible opportunity to generate offshore wind development in Scotland, leading to the successful completion of the largest number of projects feasible, suitably supported by a strong, resilient and flourishing Scottish supply chain, while seeking to achieve fair market value for Scotland's assets. In doing so it will also provide the platform for further leasing rounds to come in forthcoming years, as Scotland transitions to a new era of clean energy.

To these ends I acknowledge the position you have reached as a result of the rapid review of ScotWind and once again I would like to extend my thanks to the Board and to Crown Estate Scotland's staff for concluding this review timeously, enabling ScotWind to be re-started without further undue delay.



**Roseanna Cunningham**