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Dear Members,

Thank you for your letter following the East of England APPG meeting on 17 March and for the constructive and wide-ranging discussion. I welcome the APPG's continued engagement and the clear focus on the East of England's critical role in delivering a clean, secure and resilient energy system.

Our mission to Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower is central to delivering energy security, economic growth and helping to lower bills for households across the country. When we last spoke in March 2026, I said the East of England represented a major strategic opportunity due to its strong industrial base, world leading offshore wind resources, ports, and skilled workforce. The region is well placed to be at the forefront of our clean energy transition, supporting good, long-term jobs, attracting private investment, and strengthening our energy resilience.

Through our Clean Energy Superpower Mission, the Government will kickstart economic growth and break down the barriers to opportunity as we create a new generation of good jobs across every corner of the country, including in the East of England. Our Clean Energy Jobs Plan shows how we are supporting the next generation into good, secure jobs - by investing in skills, working with industry and trade unions, and creating clear pathways into well paid careers across the UK. The Plan highlights clean energy jobs in the East of England are projected to rise from around 20,000 jobs in 2023 to up to 60,000 jobs by 2030. Full details of the Plan can be viewed here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-energy-jobs-plan

On 14 April, we launched five Clean Energy Technical Excellence Colleges across England, including one at Colchester Institute, working in partnership with Suffolk New College, East Coast College and City College Norwich. This designation recognises the East of England's crucial role in delivering our clean energy mission and will support training for young people into clean energy roles across the region.

We recognise the importance of accelerating network infrastructure and improving grid access to unlock projects and investment. Ongoing queue reforms will accelerate projects across Great Britain as speculative projects have been deprioritised, and we are taking further action to speed up delivery. This includes new measures such as the Connections Accelerator Service and taking powers through the Planning and Infrastructure Act to evolve the regulatory framework to enable faster connections for strategic demand projects. Alongside this, work is ongoing to improve grid access through NESO's Regional Energy Strategic Plans, which will ensure the grid is built in the right places ahead of need.

We also recognise the importance of adapting to the impacts of climate change, including flooding, coastal erosion and more extreme weather. The latest National Assessment of Flood and Coastal Erosion shows that around 6.3 million properties in England are in areas at risk of flooding. With climate change the total number of properties in areas at risk could increase to around 8 million by mid-century - or around one in four properties.

As part of the Government's Plan for Change, a record £2.65 billion will be invested over two years in building, maintaining and repairing flood defences, better protecting communities across the country as we adapt to climate change. National planning policy requires new development to be resilient to all sources of flooding and safe for its lifetime, taking account of climate change, and climate projections are built into the design of new flood defences to ensure they are fit for the future. We will continue to review our approach in light of the latest evidence, including the UK Climate Projections and the Government's Climate Change Risk Assessment.

I look forward to continuing to work with the APPG and regional partners to deliver these outcomes for the East of England, and for the UK as a whole.

Best wishes,

MICHAEL SHANKS MP
Minister of State for Energy