

The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP

Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero

Tuesday 28 July 2026

Ref: Congratulations and introduction from the Energy & Utility Skills Partnership

Dear Secretary of State,

Many congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. We are writing on behalf of the Energy & Utility Skills Partnership CEO Council to introduce our collective work and reaffirm our commitment to working with you and your Department to deliver the workforce required for the UK's energy ambitions.

The Partnership brings together employers across energy, water and critical infrastructure supply chains. Partners directly employ more than 200,000 people, support many more through extensive supply chains and generate more than £120 billion in annual turnover. Our 2025 to 2030 Skills Strategy, endorsed by over 20 industry and sector partners, provides a shared approach across four priorities: research, attract, develop and retain.

The scale of the opportunity is significant. Our workforce research estimates that more than 312,000 new people will be required across energy and utilities by 2030 to deliver planned investment and maintain essential services. Meeting this requirement is fundamental to energy security, infrastructure delivery, productivity and economic growth. To help achieve this, we:

- Support delivery of the Clean Energy Jobs Plan with your Department and officials. In partnership with industry, we recently launched Destination Energy, are supporting delivery through the Social Inclusion Forum and are seeking to develop the clean energy sector's first Apprenticeship Unit.
- Develop workforce evidence with industry, including evidence that informed the Migration Advisory Committee's recent Temporary Shortage List recommendations.
- Maintain memorandums of understanding with Energy UK, Solar UK, Renewable UK, Scottish Renewables and the Careers & Enterprise Company.
- Deliver Sector Entry pilots with industry and DWP. This innovative approach to attracting new talent has seen 18 of 21 completers secure employment. We are now seeking to extend the pilot through a larger second phase designed to be scalable across the UK.
- Set the second year priorities for our 2025 to 2030 Skills Strategy, including seven UK wide policy priorities that we look forward to progressing with your Department and governments across the UK.

There are a number of opportunities for immediate impact. These include:

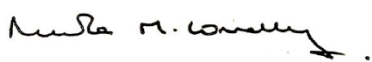
- Schedule a visit to the new Murphy training centre at Ollerton. Fully funded by Murphy, the facility demonstrates significant employer investment in workforce development and has the potential to become a training centre of strategic importance to the sector.
- Support a larger second phase of Sector Entry. Of the 18 participants who have secured employment, 11 are now working directly in energy and seven in water. The model has been designed to scale across the UK.
- Mobilise behind the Network Sector Growth Plan due to launch in September, ensuring workforce and skills requirements remain integral to implementation.
- Plan devolved roadshows to mobilise the Youth Guarantee across the sector. These are currently being scoped jointly by DWP and Energy & Utility Skills Group.
- Meet with Paul Cox at the Labour Party Conference, where he will be attending throughout the event.

Andrew Findlay and Paul Cox are also scheduled to meet with Alan Milburn tomorrow, Wednesday 29 July, providing a further opportunity to connect our work on workforce demand, participation and competence with skilled employment opportunities for young citizens who are not in education, employment or training. We also enclose our recent letter to the Minister for Skills, setting out the apprenticeship priorities agreed by the Energy & Utility Skills Partnership CEO Council at its June 2026 meeting.

By continuing to work together, we can increase opportunities for citizens and communities, strengthen workforce resilience and productivity, and ensure that investment in the UK's energy infrastructure is matched by investment in the competent workforce required to deliver it.

We look forward to continuing our positive partnership with you, your Department and governments across the UK.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Connelly
EUSP CEO Council Co-Chair
Chief Executive
ScottishPower Energy Networks
Group



Andrew Findlay
EUSP CEO Council Co-Chair
Chief Executive
M Group



Paul Cox
Group Chief Executive
Energy & Utility Skills Group

ENC: Ministerial Letter - Skills Minister Baroness Jacqui Smith - Monday 13 July 2026