

The Rt Hon Baroness Smith of MalvernMinister for Skills
Department for Education
Department for Work and Pensions

24 July 2026

Ref: Congratulations

Dear Minister,

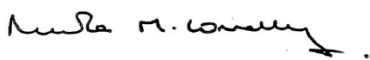
Many congratulations on your reappointment as Minister for Skills. We are delighted that you will continue to lead this important portfolio across the Department for Education and the Department for Work and Pensions.

We are grateful for the positive engagement we have enjoyed with you and your officials over the past year. Following the formation of the new Government under Prime Minister Andy Burnham, we want to reaffirm our commitment to working with you and Skills England to deliver the workforce and skills needed across the UK's energy and utility sectors.

Our letter of 13 July shared the key priorities agreed by the Energy & Utility Skills Partnership (EUSP) CEO Council. Next week we will also be writing to the Secretaries of State for Energy, Environment, Education, and Business and Trade to introduce the partnership, outline our capabilities and ambitions, and highlight the opportunities for collaboration across Government.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss any aspect of our work. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership with you, Skills England and governments across the UK.

Yours sincerely,

**Nicola Connelly**
EUSP CEO Council Co-Chair
Chief Executive
Scottish Power Energy
Networks Group**Andrew Findlay**
EUSP CEO Council Co-Chair
Chief Executive
M Group**Paul Cox**
Group Chief Executive
Energy & Utility Skills Group