Carla Denyer MP
Member of Parliament for Bristol Central
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon John Healey MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
CC: Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
BY EMAIL

03/11/2026

Dear John,

Re: Rosebank tax projections included in Budget calculations

I am writing to express concern that last week's Budget and the Treasury's economic calculations assume that drilling at Rosebank oilfield will be approved and will generate significant tax revenues. To quote from the relevant OBR document (here), which provides further detail:

"These forecasts are based on the North Sea Transition Authority's (NSTA) projection for total oil and gross gas production.....The projection includes production from currently producing fields (including Jackdaw), and the NSTA's estimate of production from development of new fields, which includes Rosebank, and from future discoveries."

This is concerning on a number of grounds.

Whilst it's become common to draw on industry estimates of oil and gas production in economic forecasts, given the timing of the Budget in relation to the Secretary of State for DESNZ's pending decision about Rosebank, the inclusion of the projections on this occasion risks suggesting that the Government might be approaching the decision with a pre-determined view. You will know that this would render any approval unlawful.

These financial assumptions could also potentially put direct or indirect pressure on the Secretary of State to reach a decision that's aligned with the expectations in the Government's budget, even if these are contrary to the UK's climate obligations. Given officials at DESNZ indicated only a matter of days ago that the Secretary of State was not minded to give the go ahead to Rosebank (see here), the Treasury should surely be avoiding any implication that it's seeking to influence the decision-making process in a different direction.

This is turn raises questions about who is making the Rosebank decision. Given the quasi-judicial nature of the regulatory process for the Rosebank project, please can you assure me that the Treasury is not involved in any shape or form and is acting in accordance with the propriety rules.

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I am also concerned by the implication that your Government's economic plans are prioritising the short-term revenue gains from drilling at Rosebank – and indeed Jackdaw – over the severe medium- and longer-term economic damage associated with climate breakdown and burning new oil and gas.

Both Parliament and the public deserve to know that any decision about Rosebank is being taken free from Treasury influence, in accordance with the rules, and mindful of its devastating climate impacts – I'd therefore be very grateful for your response to the concerns I have raised.

Yours sincerely,



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