



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

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The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
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18th January 2016

Dear Mr Bennett,

Thank you for your letter dated 26 November, regarding the phase out of coal by 2025 and the level of gas power station construction. I apologise for the delay in replying.

As I made clear in my speech on 18 November, it cannot be satisfactory for an advanced economy like the UK to be relying on polluting, carbon intensive 50-year-old coal-fired power stations for its electricity security. Our reliance on coal fired generation has reduced significantly in recent years, but one of the greatest and most cost-effective contributions we can make to emission reductions is by replacing coal fired power stations with gas.

This is why I announced an intention to consult on a proposal to close all unabated coal-fired power stations by 2025 and restrict their use from 2023. If we take this step, we will be one of the first developed countries to deliver on a commitment to take coal off the system. Whilst we will only proceed if we're confident that the shift to new gas can be achieved within these timescales, this does not imply a commitment to a specified level of replacement gas as your letter implies.

Yours sincerely

AMBER RUDD