



Department for International Trade

Graham Stuart MP

Department for International Trade
King Charles Street
Whitehall
London
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Frances Butler
Chair
Friends of the Earth

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2 April 2020

Dear Ms Butler,

I am writing to you as Chair of Friends of the Earth, in response to your recent campaign, "Stop the UK funding climate-wrecking gas projects in Mozambique". My Department has received a significant number of letters regarding this campaign and as this matter falls within my portfolio, I have been asked to reply.

I have noted your comments concerning support for gas projects in Mozambique. We recognise that climate change is the biggest challenge faced by the planet. This is why the Government has legislated to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, becoming the first major economy to do this.

However, the Department does not comment on speculation about potential transactions for reasons of commercial confidentiality. Individual overseas governments who are signatories to the Paris Agreement make their own decisions as to how they will reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve their Nationally Determined Contributions. It is not for the Government of the United Kingdom to decide for them.

The Government is, however, committed to working with countries across the world to unlock their renewable energy potential and support their transition away from fossil fuels to cleaner alternatives. Any request for government support has to meet relevant criteria, including environmental, social and human rights requirements.

I hope you find this information helpful and of some reassurance.

Yours sincerely,


GRAHAM STUART MP
Minister for Exports
Department for International Trade