

# Energy and Climate Change Committee

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 4610 Email: [ecc@parliament.uk](mailto:ecc@parliament.uk) Website: [www.parliament.uk/ecc](http://www.parliament.uk/ecc)

Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of Energy and Climate Change  
3 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2AW

24 March 2016

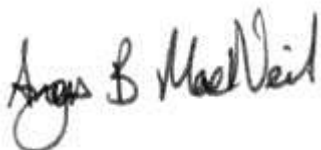
Dear Amber,

As you may know, my Committee took evidence yesterday from Vincent De Rivaz, Chief Executive of EDF Energy, on the status of the new nuclear power station planned for Hinkley Point C. It was very disappointing that Mr De Rivaz was unable to commit to a firm timeline for making a final investment decision, despite the fact that the French economy minister Emmanuel Macron has said that a decision will be made in early May.

The fate of the project is clearly now in the hands of the French government. I note the scale of the Hinkley project and its importance to the UK Government's approach to ensuring we meet our decarbonisation targets and achieve energy security. As such I would like to know what pressure the UK Government will be applying to the French Government to secure the decision it wants regarding when, if at all, this project will progress. We watch with interest for EDF's decision in early May. If it has not been made by the middle of May, following Mr De Rivaz's comments to us yesterday, we will be calling him back to explain why.

While Mr De Rivaz said categorically that the project will go ahead, the track record to date at Hinkley and overseas does not inspire confidence. I note that you have also expressed your confidence that the project will go ahead. However, given the uncertain timetable I would like to know what contingency plans you have in place in case Hinkley Point C does not materialise. I would also like to know what the costs would be to the UK if the project was cancelled. It would be helpful if you could explain what costs the UK is liable for if the project is cancelled as a result of a decision by the UK Government, and what the UK is liable for if the project is cancelled as a result of a decision taken in France.

The Committee also took evidence from NuGen and Horizon. I am also interested in hearing your view on the consequences for these developments, if the Hinkley project is further delayed or cancelled altogether.



Kind Regards,  
Angus Brendan MacNeil  
Chair of the Energy and Climate Change Committee