

Claire Baker MSP
Convener
Economy and Fair Work Committee

19 December 2023

Dear Convener,

Re: Hydrogen Sector Export Plan Development

I am writing to update the Committee on recent work to develop an export plan for the Hydrogen sector.

Work to develop a Hydrogen Sector Export Plan was identified as a key action within the [Hydrogen Action Plan](#) to support the development of a hydrogen economy. The plan will outline how the Scottish Government will use its trade and investment levers to support the development of the sector in Scotland, so that it is fit to respond to the growing international demand. It also further supports ambitions within Scotland's exporting plan, [A Trading Nation](#), and the [National Strategy for Economic Transformation](#).

Working with industry and enterprise agencies, the Scottish Government has now completed an extensive programme of engagement with stakeholders which has provided range of perspectives across businesses, academia, agencies, and local, Scottish and UK Government leads.

In addition, my officials have commissioned two pieces of research on Hydrogen demand in key international markets and the international opportunities for companies operating in the Scottish Supply Chain. Both research pieces are set to conclude early in the new year and alongside the qualitative insights from industry, will help inform the direction of this plan.

The initial ambition was to develop and publish the Hydrogen Sector Export Plan by the end of year 2023-24. However, to allow sufficient time to ensure the plan can fully reflect the information on exporting priorities for the sector and so this can be aligned with development of a Green Industrial Strategy for Scotland, publication has been moved into 2024, which remains in line with the Programme for Government commitments.

I will keep the Committee updated as this work progresses.

I trust that you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

Richard Lochhead

RICHARD LOCHHEAD