

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Economy and Gaelic
Leas Phrìomh Mhinistear agus Rùnaire a' Chaibineit
airson Eaconamaidh agus Gàidhlig
Kate Forbes MSP
Ceit Fhoirbeis BPA



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Edward Mountain MSP
Convenor
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Scottish Parliament
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Daniel Johnson MSP
Convenor
Economy and Fair Work Committee
Scottish Parliament
By email: economyandfairwork.committee@parliament.scot

19 November 2025

Dear Edward Mountain MSP and Daniel Johnson MSP,

The news that ExxonMobil has decided to close the Fife Ethelyne Plant at Mossmorran is a devastating blow to the workforce, their families and the local community. This decision will also have a material impact on Scotland's economy. Whilst I recognise the commercial nature of this decision, it is of no consolation to those directly impacted.

I met with the Chairman of Esso UK LTD at ExxonMobil, Paul Greenwood, on the 11th November who informed me that they were actively marketing the site and that a decision would be made "in the coming weeks". It is a matter of regret that this decision has been made so soon after our meeting and without any prior notice.

I was disappointed to learn that, despite long term engagement by the business with the UK Government on this situation, no solution could be found to extend the life of the site. The issues cited by ExxonMobil include the hostile policy environment of the UK Government, particularly in relation to energy prices and carbon taxation. The business has also been clear that it recognises the limited powers at our disposal to address these fundamental issues.

However, I wish to give my assurance that the Scottish Government will do all that is can to support the workforce at this time. I have made clear to ExxonMobil that I expect them to act responsibly to their workers and offer the support necessary throughout the consultation period. I have asked that the business keep me and my officials updated as this progresses.

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I will also set up a task force which will include a range of stakeholders to urgently consider any actions that the Scottish Government, with the limited economic powers we hold, could take to mitigate the impact of this decision.

I also give my commitment to keeping the committee informed of developments at appropriate junctures.

Yours sincerely,



KATE FORBES

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