

The Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
Secretary of State
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

14th February 2023

Dear Secretary of State,

Congratulations on your recent appointment as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. On behalf of [the Recruitment & Employment Confederation](#) (REC), I wish you every success in your new role.

The creation of your department comes at a critical time for our economy and our Net Zero ambitions. Identifying the potential opportunities that a green economy can provide in terms of productivity, jobs, and growth is a key priority for the REC. However, against a backdrop of ongoing skills and labour shortages, the importance of working together to understand the roles and skills required to harness opportunities for the UK, and ensure we don't lose out to competitors, can't be overstated.

Investment in green technology is also important if we are going to meet our Net Zero ambitions and become a self-sufficient energy producing nation. The volatility in wholesale power prices as a result of global gas prices has demonstrated this. We need to diversify and decarbonise the UK's domestic energy system. The government's British energy security strategy and Energy Bill will help with this, but more can be done with the business community to encourage investment in green technologies, which will reduce bills and save public money in the longer-term.

As set out in our [Overcoming Shortages report](#), in addition to inflation, another macroeconomic impact from labour and skills shortages is lower investment. At this challenging time for business, government must catalyse business investments to ensure we have the skills for the future, enabling us to achieve our Net Zero targets. That's why we're calling for government to create a 'green tax credit' to encourage and reward businesses that invest in green skills.

We know this government is committed to creating thousands of new jobs, but we're at serious risk of falling short unless long-term workforce planning happens now. The staffing industry has a key role to play in helping us prepare for the future, ensuring we have the right people with the right skills to make the most of a green economy. We stand ready to work with you to help deliver energy security and net zero.

It would be good to discuss how the REC can support the work of the department in more detail and to share our plans on preparing for a green economy. Ellie (ellie.goddard@rec.uk.com) in my office would be happy to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Neil Carberry
Chief Executive