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Dear Angela,

Thank you for your letter of 27 July regarding the future delivery of the Aberdeen Harbour Board expansion project.

As you'll appreciate, I am working closely with my officials and our stakeholders to ensure that we understand the impacts that COVID-19 is having. Where possible, we are putting in place the appropriate support packages to maintain critical infrastructure and jobs, and to secure the long term future of our businesses and the people they support.

I recognise the hugely important role Aberdeen Harbour plays in ensuring the continuation of energy supply and the movement of people on Northern Isles ferry routes at this challenging time. I held a telephone meeting with Aberdeen Harbour Board CEO Michelle Handforth and Chairman Alistair Mackenzie on 20 May to discuss current issues and challenges the port are facing due to COVID-19 and the oil and gas sector.

This is an extremely difficult time for our business community and we recognise the need to do all we can to help the recovery of key sectors of the economy and Scotland's regions. There are no specific funding packages for ports; however, there are a number of different avenues for support that individual ports may be eligible for.

The Scottish Government has provided a £2.34 billion package of support for business includes measures such as 1.6% rates relief for all non-domestic properties in 2020-21. We have also committed over £60 million to help the energy sector recover from the coronavirus pandemic. This Fund will support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and will contribute to climate change commitments, underpinning the region's ambitions to become a world leader in the transition to a zero carbon future, helping Scotland meet its ambitious targets on climate change.

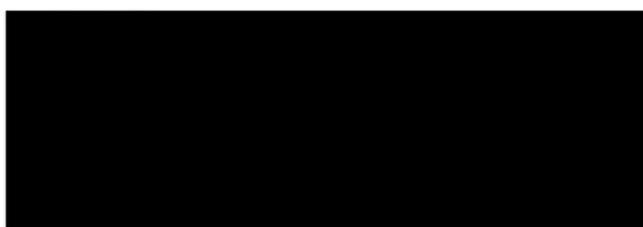
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The investment will also benefit the wider Scottish energy sector and broader supply chain, working with local businesses to maximise the economic benefits, support sustainable jobs and contribute to inclusive economic growth across the country.

Scottish Enterprise through the capital investment team in Scottish Development International (SDI) works with companies and locations to promote investor ready opportunities through our network of SDI offices internationally. SE/SDI are happy to have a meeting with the Harbour to understand whether there are opportunities to promote opportunities linked to Aberdeen Harbour and the wider land around the new and existing harbour. Officials have been in touch with the Harbour.

Aberdeen Harbour contributes significantly to the economic prosperity locally, regionally and nationally, and we look forward to continuing to work closely with the Harbour during this challenging time for the sector.



MICHAEL MATHESON

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