



# Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

**Alex Norris MP**

*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for  
Building Safety, Fire and Local Growth*  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Dame Susan Rice,  
Chair, Firth of Forth Green Freeport  
By email

25 June 2025

Dear Dame Susan,

## THE INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY AND THE FIRTH OF FORTH GREEN FREEPORT

I am writing to you regarding the recently published Industrial Strategy and its impacts the Freeports Programme. As you will know, we have been working on embedding the Freeports Programme in the Industrial Strategy to ensure it reflects and supports Freeports, and I am pleased to be able to share the outcome of this work with you. The changes brought about through the Industrial Strategy are designed to support and enhance the delivery of Freeports, ensuring they continue to drive economic growth and innovation.

Freeports are perfectly placed to be a key element of our Industrial Strategy, covering some of the highest potential industrial clusters in the country. They have made impressive strides since their inception: collectively attracting £6.4 billion of confirmed private sector investment, landing transformational investments into complex and underdeveloped sites in the sectors of the future, and ensuring jobs and prosperity start to materialise in some of our least prosperous regions – and this is only the beginning. Recognising this, government is committed to supporting the Freeports to build on and accelerate this progress. We have, in collaboration with the Scottish government, developed an Industrial Strategy Zone Action Plan setting out an extensive suite of support to help address some of the key challenges you have raised and assist you on the path to success. This includes advisory support from the National Wealth Fund, introducing a new grid connections accelerator service, and support from the Office for Investment to refine value propositions for major investor opportunities and capital projects. The full suite of actions has been set out in the Action Plan which can be found [here](#).

To maximise the impact of both Freeports and Investment Zones (IZs), and to reflecting the complementary nature of the two programmes, the government is bringing them together under a shared umbrella – **Industrial Strategy Zones**. This will secure and enhance the future of the programmes, embedding them at the heart of one of the government's flagship national strategies. This new identity will sit above the Freeport and IZ brands, both of which will be retained. You are welcome to use this overarching brand or your existing branding as you see fit.

The government recognises the excellent work done by Scottish Green Freeports to date, and the alignment they already have with the broader local growth landscape in Scotland. To build on this and bring the community closer to decisions, you should publish the minutes of all Firth of Forth Green Freeport Board meetings and hold at least one meeting publicly each year.

This is an exciting time and the Industrial Strategy and the resulting changes to the Programme are another positive step in the delivery of Freeports across the UK, demonstrating this government's resolute commitment to them.

I look forward to continuing to work together on driving economic growth and delivering for communities across the UK, and I thank you for everything you have done in service of this critical mission to date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Norris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Alex Norris MP**

Cc'd: Sarah Murray, Chief Executive Officer, Firth of Forth Green Freeport