

Coal power should be consigned to history to keep to 1.5 degrees

Greetings to you all.

It is a pleasure to join you today, and thank you to the Danish Government, IRENA, UNEP and WEF and all other partners involved in organising Energy Action Day.

The subject of this panel event, the coal to clean power transition, is absolutely vital.

Because, we want to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must consign coal power to history.

There's really no question about it.

When the countries of the world signed the Paris Agreement in 2015, they committed to limit the rise in global temperature to well below two degrees, aiming for 1.5 degrees.

Because the science shows that this will prevent the most severe impacts.

But that 1.5 degree limit will slip out of reach unless we act immediately.

That was the clear message from the IPCC in August, in their report on the latest climate science.

To keep 1.5 alive we must halve global emissions by 2030.

So the time for talking is behind us. We need urgent action now.

And particularly on power, which accounts for a quarter of global emissions.

Decarbonising our power systems is eminently achievable given the plummeting price of renewables and the stranded asset risk coal presents as a result.

So accelerating the clean energy transition is an absolute focus of the UK's COP26 Presidency.

And we are seeing progress.

The Climate Vulnerable Forum has recently released a statement supporting no new coal power.

And countries like Pakistan have committed to put an end to new coal power.

I look forward to hearing from Minister Aslam in this session about Pakistan's clean energy transition, and how international partners can support it.

Here in the UK, coal is down to less than 2 percent of our energy mix and we plan to phase it out entirely by the end of 2024.

And under our Presidency of the G7, the entire group has committed to move to overwhelmingly decarbonised power systems in the 2030s, and to stop financing coal internationally.

South Korea will end international coal finance too, meaning two of the three largest funders in the world will no longer be putting their money into coal.

To support the clean energy transition around the world, our COP26 Presidency has also been building up international collaboration.

Because we recognise that by working together, we make progress faster.

Last year we launched the COP26 Energy Transition Council, this brings together more than 20 governments, and 15 international institutions, including development banks, to support the green transition in developing countries.

We have also launched the Rapid Response Facility, which is currently responding to over 15 country requests for timely, flexible support with their energy transition.

And we plan to build on these initiatives beyond Glasgow, so that strong partnerships between governments, investors and communities continue to drive the energy revolution.

We urge countries, regions, companies and investors to join the Powering Past Coal Alliance, to accelerate the move away from coal, and the number of national government members has increased 25 percent since COP25.

And we ask financial institutions to move away from coal, and seize the opportunity of investing in clean power alternatives.

To encourage investments in emerging markets we have brought governments, investors and industry together in dialogues, including through the Energy Transition Council, to build investment confidence.

And I am very pleased that public financial institutions are supporting countries with the energy transition.

The "Climate Investments Funds" are an excellent example, and you will hear from their CEO, Mafalda Duarte, today, as well as hearing from Mary Quaney, CEO of Mainstream Renewable Power, a leader in working with local countries and communities to deliver the clean energy transition in new markets.

The progress we have seen is fantastic but there is much further to go ahead of COP26.

Because a gap remains. And it is far too large.

480 gigawatts-worth of new coal power stations are still planned around the

world.

So ahead of COP26 and at the summit itself, we need governments to make those strong, clear commitments to end polluting coal generation and prioritise clean power.

We urge countries to put an end to coal power.

By phasing out existing plants, committing not to build any new ones, and putting an end to international coal finance.

We need all investors, acting on our shared responsibility, to protect our planet.

And we need to keep building up the international collaboration, at COP26 and beyond it, to accelerate the clean energy revolution over this vital decade.

Which, frankly, it is no exaggeration to say, will determine the course of our planet's future.

I hope the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy next week will see countries announcing ambitious action on energy, including through their Energy Compacts.

And on COP26 Energy Day we will highlight countries' commitments to scale up clean power, stop new coal and support a just transition.

Because the world needs to see urgent action on power – particularly the global exit from coal – to keep 1.5 degrees alive and ensure access to clean, affordable and reliable energy for all.

And I hope that today, you will have a productive discussion on the practical ways in which we can spur action on energy, supported by international collaboration.

With a panel like this, composed of trailblazers in their respective areas, working together, I am sure that you will.

So let's keep working together to revolutionise the way we power the world.

Thank you.

Guidance: Dairy Producer Organisations: apply for recognition

Apply for and gain recognition as a Dairy Producer Organisation (DPO) in the UK.

[Alex Chalk appointed as Solicitor General](#)

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Press release

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The Solicitor General will oversee the work of the Law Officers' Departments which include the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office, as well as the Government Legal Department and HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate.

The Solicitor General also carries out a number of functions in the public interest, such as considering unduly lenient sentences, and taking action when there has been a contempt of court. These functions are carried out independently of his role as a Government minister.

Commenting on his appointment, Solicitor General Alex Chalk MP said:

"I am delighted to be appointed as Solicitor General for England and Wales. I am looking forward to working with the Attorney General, Suella Braverman, to help build back better and safer from the pandemic and to continue the Government's work in rebuilding confidence and trust in our criminal justice system.

“It is an honour to be joining this unique and historic government department which occupies a vital place at the heart of the UK constitution.”

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[Accrington man handed 12 months suspended jail sentence for fraud](#)

On Tuesday 14 September, Bernard Holmes of Blackburn was sentenced at Preston Crown Court to 12 months' jail, suspended for two years. The court also ordered 120 hours of unpaid work and a 30-day rehabilitation requirement. The sentence follows his guilty plea to three counts of fraud on 19 July.

Holmes has a history of offending and served a jail sentence for assault between July 2019 and October 2020. Prior to that offence, Holmes fraudulently used his uncle's identity to gain an SIA licence. He did this as he knew that his criminal record would prevent him from being allowed a licence in his own name. He completed the required training in August 2018 and was awarded a SIA door supervisor's licence on 10 January 2019.

On 21 September 2018 SIA investigators were carrying out routine checks at the Rail and the Nag's Head public houses in Accrington. Security staff confirmed that they had been deployed by RR Ryan Response Ltd, and that their employer was Bernard Holmes. This was later confirmed by management. SIA investigators could not find any evidence that Holmes had an SIA licence. They invited him for an interview which he failed to attend.

During the investigation the SIA found that Holmes was an associate of Jason Grogan whom he trained with. Holmes put Grogan under pressure to form a company, RR Ryan Response Ltd. Holmes formed the company without Grogan's knowledge in August 2018. Grogan, who was refused an SIA licence in 2019, told SIA investigators that he was unaware that he was the director of the company.

During the autumn SIA investigators approached witnesses, including the training provider, who identified the person claiming to be Jason Nicholson as Bernard Holmes.

In August 2020 SIA investigators approached Jason Nicholson for a formal interview, which he refused. They later interviewed Nicholson in conjunction with Lancashire Constabulary, when he confirmed that he was Holmes' uncle. Nicholson told investigators that he had never trained or applied for an SIA licence. He also stated that he had no knowledge that his identity had been used to fraudulently gain qualifications and an SIA licence.

On Tuesday, His Honour Judge Simon Medland QC, said of Holmes:

You have a long history of periodic outbursts of violence and serious conduct. These have resulted in not insignificant periods in custody. You knew when you were undertaking the process (of getting a licence) you were not going to go through the usual channels. This is because you know you would not have been granted a SIA licence. The SIA works well in making sure people are fit and proper and you are not that. You went about matters in a devious way. You were cunning in your approach to circumvent this regime and it worked for a period of time. These offences took place in August 2018 and we are now in September 2021 and within that time you have since been to prison for violence.

Jen Hart, the SIA's criminal investigation manager, said:

This is a complicated and a devious fraud. This case demonstrates that the SIA will always seek to identify those who are abusing the licensing system designed to protect the public. The severity of the sentence demonstrates that the court thought so too.

Notes to editors:

Further information:

- The Security Industry Authority is the organisation responsible for regulating the private security industry in the United Kingdom, reporting to the Home Secretary under the terms of the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Our main duties are: the compulsory licensing of individuals undertaking designated activities; and managing the voluntary Approved Contractor Scheme.
- For further information about the Security Industry Authority visit www.gov.uk/sia. The SIA is also on [Facebook](#) (Security Industry Authority) and [Twitter](#) (SIAuk).