# Donald Trump faces backlash from SNP and Scottish Greens over North Sea drilling push



Billionaire Donald Trump’s recent call for the British government to abandon its renewable energy commitments in favour of increased drilling in the North Sea has drawn sharp criticism from leaders of the Scottish National Party (SNP) and the Scottish Greens. Trump, utilising social media to spread his views, suggested that the UK should “ditch the unsightly windmills” and incentivise modern drilling, threatening the integrity of the UK's environmental policies.

His comments seem to contradict the UK's Labour government’s pledge to phase out new oil and gas licences and highlight a stark divergence in energy policy approaches between the United States and the UK. Julie Swinney, the Scottish First Minister, characterised Trump’s position as unsurprising, recalling that his rhetoric has been consistent throughout his political career. Swinney reiterated the Scottish Government's commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2045 and expressed determination to adhere to climate targets despite previous challenges in meeting interim goals.

Scottish Greens co-leader Patrick Harvie voiced further discontent, labelling Trump’s views as dangerous and asserting that such stances cater to the interests of fossil fuel corporations at the expense of public welfare. Harvie articulated that breaking the “artificial link” between gas and electricity prices is crucial for making energy more affordable for households, asserting that Scotland's renewable energy sector generates ample clean power that citizens should benefit from. The Scottish Greens have stressed their commitment to transitioning away from fossil fuels and have cautioned the SNP against reversing their policies regarding new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea.

This political clash underscores a broader tension within the UK regarding energy policy. The government has positioned itself firmly in the renewable sector, aiming to increase its offshore wind capacity and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Critics, however, argue that such policies may not sufficiently alleviate rising energy costs, a point Trump appeared to exploit in his commentary.

In the context of ongoing debates surrounding climate change action, it remains imperative for the UK government to maintain clarity in its objectives. By reinforcing its commitment to renewable energy, it can better navigate the complex landscape marked by calls from figures like Trump, who reflect a more traditional, fossil-fuel-oriented perspective. The SNP and Greens reiterate the necessity of prioritising environmental sustainability over short-term economic gains from fossil fuel exploitation.

The Department for Energy & Net Zero declined to comment on the exchanges, which many see as pivotal in shaping the future of the UK’s energy landscape. As pressure mounts on governments globally to respond to climate crises, the continued advocacy for fossil fuel expansion challenges the very foundations of the environmental progress many nations have committed to.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/trumps-north-sea-oil-and-gas-calls-best-ignored-say-greens-and-snp), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/), [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/db14493f-ad54-4139-bf79-0c6d4db59d2f), [[5]](https://www.thenational.scot/news/24360649.scottish-greens-warn-snp-u-turn-oil-gas-exploration/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry), [[5]](https://www.thenational.scot/news/24360649.scottish-greens-warn-snp-u-turn-oil-gas-exploration/), [[6]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uk/2025/01/03/trump-says-uk-must-open-up-north-sea-oil-and-move-away-from-wind-power/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.ft.com/content/db14493f-ad54-4139-bf79-0c6d4db59d2f), [[6]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uk/2025/01/03/trump-says-uk-must-open-up-north-sea-oil-and-move-away-from-wind-power/), [[7]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/donald-trump-says-uk-s-retreat-from-north-sea-oil-and-gas-is-a-big-mistake-b2673353.html)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/trumps-north-sea-oil-and-gas-calls-best-ignored-say-greens-and-snp), [[5]](https://www.thenational.scot/news/24360649.scottish-greens-warn-snp-u-turn-oil-gas-exploration/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://morningstaronline.co.uk/article/trumps-north-sea-oil-and-gas-calls-best-ignored-say-greens-and-snp> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/> - In January 2025, U.S. President-elect Donald Trump criticized the UK's energy policy, urging the government to open up the North Sea for oil and gas drilling and eliminate wind farms. This stance contrasts with the UK's commitment to expanding offshore wind capacity and reducing fossil fuel reliance. The UK government emphasized its focus on a fair transition to clean energy, aiming to protect consumers and enhance energy independence. Trump's comments highlight differing approaches to energy policy between the U.S. and the UK.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry> - In January 2025, President-elect Donald Trump criticized the UK's energy policies, urging the government to open up the North Sea for oil and gas drilling and remove wind farms. This call was met with criticism from environmental groups and UK officials, who emphasized the country's commitment to renewable energy and climate targets. The debate underscores the tension between fossil fuel interests and renewable energy advocates in shaping the UK's energy future.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/db14493f-ad54-4139-bf79-0c6d4db59d2f> - In January 2025, President-elect Donald Trump criticized the UK's plan to reduce North Sea oil and gas production, calling it a 'very big mistake' and urging increased drilling and the elimination of wind energy projects. This criticism contrasts with the UK's Labour government's emphasis on transitioning away from fossil fuels to address climate change, highlighting potential strains in US-UK relations over energy policies.
5. <https://www.thenational.scot/news/24360649.scottish-greens-warn-snp-u-turn-oil-gas-exploration/> - In January 2025, the Scottish Greens warned the Scottish National Party (SNP) against reversing its stance on new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea. The Greens emphasized the need for a clear commitment to renewable energy and a just transition away from fossil fuels, urging the SNP to maintain its presumption against new oil and gas developments to align with climate goals.
6. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uk/2025/01/03/trump-says-uk-must-open-up-north-sea-oil-and-move-away-from-wind-power/> - In January 2025, President-elect Donald Trump criticized the UK's energy policies, urging the government to open up the North Sea for oil and gas drilling and move away from wind power. This call contrasts with the UK's commitment to renewable energy and climate targets, highlighting differing approaches to energy policy between the U.S. and the UK.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/donald-trump-says-uk-s-retreat-from-north-sea-oil-and-gas-is-a-big-mistake-b2673353.html> - In January 2025, President-elect Donald Trump criticized the UK's move away from oil and gas production, urging the government to 'open up' the North Sea and get rid of 'windmills'. This criticism contrasts with the UK's commitment to renewable energy and climate targets, highlighting differing approaches to energy policy between the U.S. and the UK.