

Michael Shanks MP
Minister for Energy
DESNZ
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Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
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Chris McDonald MP
Minister for Industry
DESNZ / DBT
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Open Letter - Cross-Ministerial Coordination:

Urgent call to publish HAR 2, HAR 3 & the Hydrogen Strategy refresh

Dear Minister Shanks, Chancellor Reeves and Minister McDonald,

The UK hydrogen sector issues this statement with serious and growing concern. Our sector calls upon a coordinated ministerial intervention to exercise all available levers to prevent further delay to the Hydrogen Allocation Rounds and the Hydrogen Strategy Refresh. These delays are **stalling investment** and **pushing UK hydrogen into genuine distress**.

The messages from the UK hydrogen industry are clear:

- **Every day of delay to announcements on successful HAR 2 projects, the HAR 3 market engagement exercise and the update to the Hydrogen Strategy risks a negative spiral of eroding business confidence, current and future hydrogen job losses** across the UK industrial base, and **private investment moving** away from the UK hydrogen sector.
- We advocate for the **immediate release** of next steps for HAR 2 (ITO/BAFO) as well as market engagement for HAR 3, urging that both announcements on these critical funding milestones are not **contingent upon** one another or upon the release of the Hydrogen Strategy Refresh.
- Crucially, this immediate action must not result in any associated delay to the Strategy itself; further postponement puts at risk hydrogen's critical role in delivering UK growth, energy security and decarbonisation. The **Hydrogen Strategy Refresh** is a **vital** mechanism to **restore commercial confidence, global competitiveness, private investment and UK job growth creation**.

To support Government in expediting the Hydrogen Strategy Refresh, the HEA has attached a range of **job and investment case studies from leaders of the UK hydrogen industry**. These case studies bolster the evidence-base of the UK hydrogen's investment and job opportunities currently at risk, highlighted in our recently published [State of the Hydrogen Nation](#) (SOTHN) report.

Under an improved policy environment – with faster decision-making, clearer demand signals & better-aligned delivery, SOTHN industry survey respondents can deliver a **four-fold increase in employment**, creating 17,000 jobs by 2030, spanning engineering, construction, manufacturing, infrastructure and operations.

The opportunity to lead the global hydrogen economy is ours to take, but it requires decisive, cross-departmental action. We call for an immediate intervention to expedite HAR 2 and 3 announcements and the Strategy Refresh, ensuring the UK seizes the full economic, security, and decarbonisation opportunities that our sector is ready to deliver.

The HEA stands ready to work with Government to progress these matters.



Dr Emma Guthrie,
CEO of the Hydrogen Energy Association