

14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Darragh O'Brien, TD  
Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy  
Tom Johnson House,  
Haddington Road,  
Dublin 4, D04 K7X4

By email: [minister.obrien@decc.gov.ie](mailto:minister.obrien@decc.gov.ie)

Dear Minister O'Brien,

On behalf of the Just Transition Commission, I would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Minister for Climate, Environment and Energy and Minister for Transport.

You take on this responsibility during a critical period for Ireland's climate policies. Much work remains to be done to deliver on existing commitments, and to develop and implement the additional policies that will be necessary to ensure Ireland can realise its statutory emissions reductions for 2030, strengthen its climate resilience, as well as prepare the ground for the period beyond.

As Ireland embarks on our ambitious climate transition, central to this work will be to ensure that policy is developed and delivered in a manner that provides for a just transition. As set out in the statutory National Climate Objective, government is responsible for ensuring that Ireland's climate transition is just and endeavours, in so far as practicable, to maximise employment opportunities, and to support people and communities that may be negatively affected by the transition.

As Chair of the Just Transition Commission, appointed by the previous Government, and with secretariat support being provided by the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, I am working with my fellow Commissioners on an ambitious programme of work for our first three-year term.

Key areas of focus for the Commission during 2025 will be to scrutinise the integration of the Government's own just transition objectives into relevant policy areas in key Government Departments, and that the Commission will seek to engage in detail with existing and planned policies under each Department's remit.

In this context, I welcome the attention, in the Programme for Government, to the just transition agenda and to the role of the Just Transition Commission.

I note in particular the reiteration of support for the work of the Commission in **engagement with communities**, addressing their concerns and ensuring they benefit from the climate transition. I believe that this work will be a crucial area of activity for both the Commission and for the Government, through your own Department's National Dialogue on Climate Action as well as through relevant sectoral dialogues.

Separately, the Programme for Government's re-affirmed commitment to fund **socially progressive interventions** is very welcome in the context of the principle in the Government's own Just Transition Framework that costs are shared so that the impact is equitable, and existing inequalities are not exacerbated.

Finally, the focus on **skills** in the Programme for Government, in particular supporting the development of green skills in Ireland's workforce, is fully in line with Ireland's statutory objectives in relation to just

transition and with the Just Transition Framework. The Just Transition Commission has been asked by the Government to give further attention to this aspect of our climate transition, in particular the likely longer-term implications for Ireland's workforce as we work towards a climate neutral economy.

I would welcome an early opportunity to meet you to brief you on the Commission's priorities for the year ahead. We look forward to establishing a positive and productive relationship with you over the coming years.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Sheridan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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Ali Sheridan  
Chair  
Just Transition Commission