



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**Lord Duncan of Springbank PhD FGS**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State  
and Minister of Climate Change

**Department for Business, Energy &  
Industrial Strategy**  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Lord Taylor of Warwick  
House of Lords  
London  
SW1A 0PW

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [enquiries@beis.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@beis.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

16<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear John,

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER HL17773**

On 5<sup>th</sup> September 2019 you asked the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy the following Question for Written Answer:

To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the environmental impact of leaving de-commissioned oil rigs in the North Sea. (HL17773)

Please find my response below:

My Department requires that all applications to leave part or all of an installation or pipeline in place at the time of decommissioning are supported by a detailed environmental impact assessment. The assessment must comply with international obligations, is reviewed by Departmental staff and relevant stakeholders, including environmental bodies and NGOs, and must be accepted by the Department before it approves the proposed operations. Details of projects under consideration can be found on our web page titled "Oil and gas: decommissioning of offshore installations and pipelines" on the GOV.UK website.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Libraries of the House.

**Lord Duncan of Springbank**