



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Michael Shanks MP
Minister of State for Energy

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Bill Esterson MP
Chair of the Energy Security and Net Zero
Committee
House of Commons
London
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17th August 2026

Dear Bill,

Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N) Small Modular Reactor (SMR) Programme – Publication of Accounting Officer Assessment (AOA) and Business Case Summaries

I am writing to inform you that the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) has now published the following documents associated with GBE-N SMR Programme:

1. Summary of the SMR Technology Partner (TP) Contract AOA, approved by the DESNZ Accounting Officer on 9 April 2026 ahead of GBE-N entering the TP Contract with Rolls-Royce (RR) SMR, which was announced on 13 April¹.
2. Summary of the SMR TP Contract Full Business Case (FBC)
3. Summary of the SMR Owner's Engineer Business Case

These documents follow publication of the *Small Modular Reactor: Summary Programme Business Case*² in April 2026. The SMR Programme aims to enable the deployment of SMRs in the UK, contributing to the government's objectives on decarbonisation, energy security, and economic growth.

The scope of the completed AOA relates to the SMR TP Contract FBC approvals sought to enable GBE-N to enter into contract with RR SMR. GBE-N launched the Technology Selection Process in summer 2023 as a fair and competitive procurement exercise to identify a TP to deliver SMRs, with RR SMR being deemed by GBE-N as the highest scoring technology solution against the technical, commercial, and social value criteria evaluated.

¹ [Great British Energy - Nuclear and Rolls-Royce SMR sign contract - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/great-british-energy-nuclear-and-rolls-royce-smr-sign-contract)

² [Small modular reactor: summary programme business case - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/small-modular-reactor-summary-programme-business-case)

The Owner's Engineer Business Case sought approval for the appointment of an Owner's Engineer to provide independent technical assurance, design review, and delivery oversight which will enable GBE-N to fulfil its Intelligent Client and Intelligent Customer functions in delivery of the SMR project.

These documents are being published in accordance with HM Treasury transparency guidance regarding the Government's Major Project Portfolio (GMPP) and making relevant documents available to Parliament. The AOA and business case summaries will be deposited in the libraries of the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Furthermore, I have annexed to this letter a copy of the AOA summary and have included in copy the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Treasury Officer of Accounts.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Shanks', followed by a period. There is a short horizontal line underneath the signature.

Michael Shanks MP
Minister of State for Energy