
Committee Stage: Tuesday 20 February 2024

Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill

(Amendment Paper)

This document lists all amendments tabled to the Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill. Any withdrawn amendments are listed at the end of the document. The amendments are arranged in the order in which it is expected they will be decided.

This document should be read alongside the Chair's provisional Selection and Grouping, which sets out the order in which the amendments will be debated.

Caroline Lucas

1

Rachael Maskell
Colum Eastwood
Stephen Farry
Tommy Sheppard
Beth Winter

Claire Hanna

Alex Sobel

Olivia Blake

Clause 1, page 1, line 3, leave out from "4ZA" to end of line 22 on page 3 and insert—

"Prohibition on granting further seaward production licences or consents for projects under existing licences

- (1) The OGA must not grant any seaward area production and exploration licences after the day on which this Act comes into force.
- (2) The OGA must not grant consent for the commencement of a project under an existing seaward area production licence after the date on which this Act comes into force.
- (3) In this section —
 - "project" has the meaning give in the Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020 (SI 2020/1497).
 - "seaward area production licence" has the meaning given by the Petroleum Licensing (Applications) Regulations 2015 (SI 2025/766)."

Sir Alok Sharma

12

Vicky Ford
Jo Gideon
Selaine Saxby
Tracey Crouch
Derek Thomas

Andrew Selous
Sir Robert Buckland

Dr Matthew Offord

Mrs Flick Drummond

Clause 1, page 1, line 3, at end insert—

- “(1ZA) The OGA must not invite any new seaward area production application licences until the Secretary of State has by regulations brought into effect a ban on flaring and venting relating to new offshore installations other than that required in an emergency.
- (1ZB) The Secretary of State must by regulation make such provision so that the OGA is only permitted to invite seaward area production application licences after 2030 once a prohibition is in place on routine flaring and venting for all offshore installations operating in UK waters.
- (1ZC) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsections (1ZA) and (1ZB) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.
- (1ZD) In subsection (1ZA) and (1ZB)—
- “flaring” means the burning of hydrocarbons produced during oil and gas extraction;
- “venting” means the release of un-combusted hydrocarbons directly into the atmosphere.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment prevents the invitation of new seaward area production application licences until the Secretary of State has introduced a ban on flaring and venting by new offshore installations. It also requires the Secretary of State to prevent licensing rounds from 2030 if a wider ban is not in place.

Neale Hanvey

15

Kenny MacAskill

Clause 1, page 1, line 3, at end insert—

- “(1ZA) The OGA must not invite any new seaward area production application licences until the Secretary of State has by regulations brought into effect a requirement that—
- (a) all new seaward area production application licences require a specific field commitment of a net zero carbon footprint reached through developing the Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage network or such other means as deemed appropriate; and

- (b) a percentage, to be specified in regulations but not less than 30 per cent, of all new seaward area production application licences specifically align petroleum extraction with the refining of petroleum at the Grangemouth oil refinery.

(1ZB) A statutory instrument containing regulations under subsections (1ZA) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.”

Dave Doogan

7

Clause 1, page 1, line 4, leave out “in each relevant year” and insert “on a case-by-case basis”

Caroline Lucas

2

Rachael Maskell
Colum Eastwood
Stephen Farry
Tommy Sheppard
Beth Winter

Claire Hanna

Alex Sobel

Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert—

“(aa) the climate test (see section 4ZD)”

Member's explanatory statement

This paving amendment, together with Amendment 3, sets out the climate test to be applied by the Oil and Gas Authority before inviting applications for seaward new production licences.

Dave Doogan

8

Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert—

“(aa) the energy and job security test (see section 4ZD)”

Member's explanatory statement

This paving amendment, together with Amendment 9, introduces a new test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward new production licences.

Dave Doogan

10

Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert—

“(aa) the just transition test (see section 4ZD)”

Member's explanatory statement

This paving amendment, together with Amendment 11, introduces a new test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward new production licences.

Caroline Lucas

13

Olivia Blake
Nadia Whittome

Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert—

“(aa) the just transition plans test (see section 4ZD)”

Member's explanatory statement

This paving amendment, together with Amendment 14, introduces a new test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward new production licences.

Edward Miliband

17

Dr Alan Whitehead
Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Olivia Blake
Mick Whitley
Clive Lewis

John McDonnell
Nadia Whittome
Ian Byrne

Sam Tarry
Dawn Butler
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Grahame Morris
Zarah Sultana
Rachael Maskell

Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert—

“(aa) the climate change test (see section 4ZD)”

Member's explanatory statement

This paving amendment, together with Amendment 18, sets out the climate change test to be applied by the Oil and Gas Authority before inviting applications for seaward new production licences.

Lloyd Russell-Moyle

22

Olivia Blake
Mick Whitley
Clive Lewis
John McDonnell
Sam Tarry

Grahame Morris
Zarah Sultana
Rachael Maskell

Nadia Whittome
Ian Byrne

Dawn Butler
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert —

“(aa) the home energy efficiency test (see section 4ZD).”

Member's explanatory statement

This paving amendment, together with Amendment 24, introduces a home energy efficiency test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward area production licences.

Lloyd Russell-Moyle

23

Olivia Blake
 Mick Whitley
 Clive Lewis
 John McDonnell
 Sam Tarry

Grahame Morris
 Zarah Sultana
 Rachael Maskell

Nadia Whittome
 Ian Byrne
 Wendy Chamberlain

Dawn Butler
 Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Clause 1, page 1, line 6, at end insert—

“(aa) the Energy Charter test (see section 4ZD).”

Member's explanatory statement

This paving amendment, together with Amendment 25, introduces an Energy Charter test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward area production licences.

Edward Miliband

19

Dr Alan Whitehead

Clause 1, page 2, line 1, after “of” leave out “liquefied”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, together with Amendment 20, would require the carbon intensity of domestic natural gas to be assessed against the carbon intensity of all natural gas imported into the UK.

Edward Miliband

20

Dr Alan Whitehead

Clause 1, page 2, line 7, leave out “liquefied”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, together with Amendment 19, would require the carbon intensity of domestic natural gas to be assessed against the carbon intensity of all natural gas imported into the UK.

Edward Miliband

21

Dr Alan Whitehead

Clause 1, page 2, line 24, at end insert—

“(4A) Within six months of the commencement of this Act, the Secretary of State must produce and lay before Parliament a report on the effect of amending the definition of “carbon intensity” as set out in subsection (4) according to section 93 of the Climate Change Act 2008.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to report how the carbon intensity test is affected if the definition of carbon intensity were amended to include emissions of gases other than carbon dioxide in line with the carbon dioxide equivalent measure in section 93 of the 2008 Climate Change Act.

Caroline Lucas

3

Rachael Maskell
Colum Eastwood
Stephen Farry
Tommy Sheppard
Beth Winter

Claire Hanna

Alex Sobel

Clause 1, page 3, line 23, at end insert—

“4ZD The climate test mentioned in s 4ZA

The *climate test* is met in relation to a relevant year if the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change finds that current global fossil infrastructure will not emit more greenhouse gases than is compatible with limiting global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius.”

Dave Doogan

9

Clause 1, page 3, line 23, at end insert—

“4ZD The energy and job security test mentioned in s 4ZA

The energy and job security test is met in relation to a relevant year if the OGA assesses that new licences will—

- (a) lower energy bills for households;
- (b) deliver energy security and reduce reliance on imported fuel sources for domestic consumption;
- (c) enhance sustained job security for the oil and gas workforce in areas of the UK economically reliant on the oil and gas sector;
- (d) guarantee funding for domestic refineries to increase capacity to process sustainable fuel sources; and
- (e) help the oil and gas sector meet commitments set out in the North Sea Transition Deal.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment sets out a new test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward new production licences.

Dave Doogan

11

Clause 1, page 3, line 23, at end insert—

“4ZD The just transition test mentioned in s 4ZA

The just transition test is met in relation to a relevant year if the OGA assesses that—

- (a) new licences will support the delivery of the North Sea Transition Deal’s greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of 10% by 2025, 25% by 2027 and 50% by 2030 against a 2018 baseline, to meet the sector’s aim of a net zero basin by 2050; and
- (b) the Secretary of State has provided funding to support the development of the renewable energy sector, in areas of the UK economically dependent on the oil and gas sector, equivalent to tax revenues collected from UK oil and gas production.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment sets out a new test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward new production licences.

Caroline Lucas

14

Olivia Blake
Nadia Whittome

Clause 1, page 3, line 23, at end insert—

“4ZD The just transition plans test mentioned in s 4ZA

- (1) The just transition plans test is met in relation to a relevant year if the OGA assesses that all existing seaward area production licence holders have published just transition plans for their workforce that are compatible with limiting global heating to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- (2) For the purposes of this section—
“just transition plans” refer to plans agreed through formalised collective agreements with unions in the workplace for consultation on policy;
“workforce” includes workers, directly and indirectly (sub-contracted or agency) employed, or engaged through day-rate or self-employed contract models.”

Edward Miliband

18

Dr Alan Whitehead
Lloyd Russell-Moyle
Olivia Blake
Mick Whitley
Clive Lewis

John McDonnell
Nadia Whittome
Ian Byrne

Sam Tarry
Dawn Butler
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Grahame Morris
Zarah Sultana
Rachael Maskell

Clause 1, page 3, line 23, insert—

“4ZD The climate change test mentioned in 4ZA

The *climate change test* is met in relation to a relevant year if the latest reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the mitigation of climate change find that the granting of additional seaward area production licences is consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment sets out a new test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward new production licences.

Lloyd Russell-Moyle

24

Olivia Blake
Mick Whitley
Clive Lewis
John McDonnell
Sam Tarry

Grahame Morris
Zarah Sultana
Rachael Maskell

Nadia Whittome
Ian Byrne

Dawn Butler
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Clause 1, page 3, line 23, at end insert—

“4ZD The home energy efficiency test mentioned in s 4ZA

The *home energy efficiency test* is met if the median rating in current Energy Performance Certificates in the United Kingdom falls within or above Band B.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment sets out the home energy efficiency test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward area production licences.

Lloyd Russell-Moyle 25

Olivia Blake
Mick Whitley
Clive Lewis
John McDonnell
Sam Tarry

Grahame Morris
Zarah Sultana
Rachael Maskell

Nadia Whittome
Ian Byrne
Wendy Chamberlain

Dawn Butler
Bell Ribeiro-Addy

Clause 1, page 3, line 23, at end insert—

“4ZD The Energy Charter test mentioned in s 4ZA

The *Energy Charter Treaty test* is met if the United Kingdom has made arrangements to withdraw from the Energy Charter Treaty.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment sets out the Energy Charter test to be applied by the OGA before inviting applications for seaward area production licences.

Caroline Lucas 4

Page 1, line 1, leave out Clause 1

Caroline Lucas 5

Clause 2, page 3, line 28, after “the” insert “Prohibition of”

Caroline Lucas NC1

To move the following Clause—

“Duty to phase out UK petroleum

- (1) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must make regulations to amend section 9A of the Petroleum Act 1998.
- (2) Regulations under subsection (1) must —
 - (a) remove the “principal objective” of maximising the economic recovery of UK petroleum;
 - (b) define a new “principal objective”.
- (3) The new “principal objective” referred to in paragraph (2)(b) must provide for—
 - (a) delivery of a managed and orderly phase out of UK petroleum;
 - (b) advancement of the UK’s climate change commitments, including—
 - (i) the target for 2050 set out in section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008,

- (ii) the commitment given by the Government of the United Kingdom in the Glasgow Climate Pact to pursue policies to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and
 - (iii) the commitment in the Outcome of the Global Stocktake to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems.
- (c) facilitation of a just transition for oil and gas workers and communities.
- (4) Before making regulations under subsection (1) the Secretary of State must hold a public consultation which must include consultation with—
 - (a) the devolved administrations,
 - (b) relevant trade union and worker representatives,
 - (c) oil and gas workers and communities,
 - (d) relevant representatives from academia,
 - (e) relevant climate and environmental organisations and representatives,
 - (f) relevant industry representatives of petroleum and renewable energy businesses supporting the transition away from fossil fuels, and
 - (g) offshore energy training bodies.
- (5) Relevant climate and environmental organisations and representatives under subsection (4(e)) must include the Climate Change Committee.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause would amend the Petroleum Act 1998 to remove the principal objective of maximising the economic recovery of UK petroleum and replace it with a new principal objective to deliver a managed and orderly phase out of UK petroleum, advance the UK's climate targets, and support a just transition for oil and gas workers.

Selaine Saxby

NC2

Sir Alok Sharma
 Vicky Ford
 Jo Gideon
 Tracey Crouch
 Derek Thomas

Sally-Ann Hart

Andrew Selous

To move the following Clause—

“Duty to introduce spatial prioritisation policy

After section 4 of the Petroleum Act 1998 insert—

“4ZAA Duty to introduce spatial prioritisation policy

- (1) Before the OGA invites applications for seaward area production licences under this Act the Secretary of State must publish a marine spatial prioritisation policy.
- (2) The marine spatial prioritisation policy must establish a process for prioritising offshore renewables, marine protection, fishing activities, oil and gas licensing, and the achievement of relevant targets under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Environment Act 2021 in any

relevant decisions relating to the marine environment made by a body undertaking public functions.

- (3) The OGA must comply with the marine spatial prioritisation policy set out in subsection (1) when deciding applications relating to new seaward area production licences.””

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause requires the Secretary of State to publish a marine spatial prioritisation policy, taking into account relevant targets under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Environment Act 2021.

Edward Miliband

NC3

Dr Alan Whitehead

To move the following Clause—

“Maximising Economic Recovery of UK Petroleum

After section 9 of the Petroleum Act 1998, omit section 9A.”

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause removes the provision in the Petroleum Act 1998, as amended by the Infrastructure Act 2015 and Energy Act 2016, establishing the principal objective of maximising the economic recovery of UK petroleum and requiring the OGA to produce and implement strategies to achieve the objective.

Edward Miliband

NC4

Dr Alan Whitehead

To move the following Clause—

“The Principal Objective and the Strategy of the North Sea Transition Authority

After section 9 of the Petroleum Act 1998, insert new section 9A—

- “(1) In this Part the “principal objective” is the objective of supporting the UK’s energy security and net zero commitments, and maximising the low-carbon economic potential of the North Sea basin in order to secure a managed and fair transition for North Sea workers, in particular through—
- (a) development, deployment and use of carbon capture and storage and hydrogen facilities, and offshore floating wind installations;
 - (b) collaboration with the following—
 - (i) the Crown Estate;
 - (ii) the National Energy System Operator;
 - (iii) trade unions representing workers in the North Sea;
 - (iv) petroleum licence holders and operators;
 - (v) owners of upstream petroleum infrastructure; and

(vi) owners of relevant offshore installations.

- (2) The OGA must produce one or more strategies for enabling the principal objective to be met.””

Member's explanatory statement

This new clause gives the North Sea Transition Authority a new principal objective, which is to support the UK's energy security and the transition to net zero, and to maximise the economic potential of the North Sea basin within a net zero economy by supporting the development of hydrogen and CCUS.

Caroline Lucas

6

Title, leave out “about” and insert “to prohibit”

Order of the House

[22 January 2024]

That the following provisions shall apply to the Offshore Petroleum Licensing Bill:

Committal

1. The Bill shall be committed to a Committee of the whole House.

Proceedings in Committee, on Consideration and on Third Reading

2. Proceedings in Committee of the whole House shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion three hours after their commencement.
3. Any proceedings on Consideration and proceedings on Third Reading shall (so far as not previously concluded) be brought to a conclusion four hours after the commencement of proceedings in Committee of the whole House.
4. Standing Order No. 83B (Programming committees) shall not apply to proceedings in Committee of the whole House, to any proceedings on Consideration or to proceedings on Third Reading.

Other proceedings

5. Any other proceedings on the Bill may be programmed.