Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP

Secretary of State for
Science, Innovation and
Technology

100 Parliament Street

London SW1A 2BQ

Professor Christopher Hodges
Regulatory Horizons Council
RegulatoryHorizonsCouncil@beis.gov.uk

20 April 2023

Dear Christopher,

The Government believes science and technology have the potential to change our world beyond recognition and improve all our lives. This is why this Government has created a brand new and dedicated department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to position the UK at the forefront of global scientific and technological advancement and grow the economy.

As Secretary of State for DSIT, I welcome the Council's latest report on the regulation of hydrogen fuel propulsion in maritime vessels and its recommendations to government. Your report is well-timed with Government's recent announcements on energy policy and the publication of Sir Patrick Vallance's Green Industries Regulation Review. The use of hydrogen fuel in the maritime sector is an area of great potential for the UK and is yet another example of how innovation and technology can act as drivers for sustainable growth.

Nonetheless, the development and deployment of hydrogen propulsion in maritime is challenging. The Council's report offers a timely analysis of the UK's regulatory environment surrounding hydrogen fuels and provides recommendations that seek to reduce regulatory fragmentation and encourage investment in hydrogen port infrastructure and hydrogen-powered vessels.

I welcome the Council's pragmatic approach to regulatory reform, focusing on establishing a proportionate regulatory framework that encourages the safe development of hydrogen fuel and whilst providing clarity to innovators, shipbuilders and ports. My colleagues in the Department for Transport have received your report and I look forward to seeing the Government response to your recommendations.

As you know, the rapid and safe adoption of emerging technology is key to the Government's plan to build an innovative economy, which delivers more well-paid jobs across the UK, and helps meet our Net Zero goals. From stimulating demand

Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP

Secretary of State for
Science, Innovation and
Technology

100 Parliament Street

London SW1A 2BQ

for UK shipbuilders, to bolstering job creation in our coastal communities, to sustainably supporting our world leading offshore wind farm industries, the adoption of hydrogen and other low carbon fuels in the maritime sector offers an array of opportunities for the UK to deliver on our plan to build an innovative economy.

Recognising that this marks the completion of the Council's second tranche of activity, I would like to thank you and all the Council Members for your timely and relevant recommendations delivered to date. I look forward to further updates on the Council's future activity.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero and the Secretary of State for Transport.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP
Secretary of State Science, Innovation and Technology