



Department
of Energy &
Climate Change

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Secretary of State

Department of Energy & Climate Change
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Our ref: [REDACTED]

Craig Bennet
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Dear Craig

Thank you for your letter and accompanying petition dated 22 April, about coal extraction.

As I made clear in my speech last November, it cannot be satisfactory for an advanced economy like the UK to be relying on polluting, carbon intensive coal-fired power stations for our electricity security. That is why I announced an intention to consult on a proposal to close all unabated coal-fired power stations by 2025. If we take this step, we could be one of the first developed countries to deliver on a commitment to take coal off the system.

You also raised amending the Planning regulations for coal extraction. This is a matter for the Department of Communities and Local Government. However Government policy, as set out in paragraph 149 of the National Planning Policy Framework, states that planning permission by mineral planning authorities: *“should not be given for the extraction of coal unless the proposal is environmentally acceptable, or can be made so by planning conditions or obligations; or if not, provides national, local or community benefits which clearly outweigh the likely impacts to justify the grant of permission.”*

The Framework, which is kept under regular review, can be found at:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/2116950.pdf>

Yours sincerely,

AMBER RUDD